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**Volume #87, Report #80 -- Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

**Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote**

Gov. John Kasich wants to see a set of gun safety proposals he is supporting come up for a vote, but one legislative leader said his chamber is working through several firearm-related issues.

The governor said Tuesday he hoped to see a vote on a proposal (HB 585 & SB 288) to make several changes to the state's gun laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Gov. Kasich pointed to the deadly shooting over the weekend at a Tennessee Waffle House restaurant, saying the state needs a "red flag" law to seize guns from people determined to be dangerous. That someone was able to stop the shooter while he reloaded also shows the need for limiting the capacity of magazines, the governor said.

The governor's proposals, particularly the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have met pushback from some Republican legislators. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

Gov. Kasich said he still expects the proposal to become law.

"We're going to get this package through," he said. "This is going to happen. It's not going to be easy to duck and run away and put your head in the sand. I will not let that happen. Maybe they can stop it, but it isn't going to be without a lot of people feeling a lot, a lot of pressure."

The governor said the gun safety proposal would likely pass if brought up for a vote.

"Bring it up and have a vote on it," he said. "We'll see where the votes are. Let's see where the majority of the caucus is. I guarantee you, you put this gun safety on the Senate floor, it passes. We need a vote."

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday he doesn't expect that exact proposal to come to the floor of his chamber, but that members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

"We have a very open process, we will look at a number of different changes related to firearms, some of which are in line with what the governor is looking at, some of which are longstanding problems that our caucus has felt we had a need to fix," he said.

The Senate leader pointed to legislation ranging from one sponsored by two Republicans to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases, among other changes (SB 180), to proposals by Democrats to ban bump stocks (SB 219) and to create extreme risk protection orders (SB 278).

"Whether anything passes or whether a lot of it passes, we'll decide as a caucus," Sen. Obhof said.

The risk protection order measure, sponsored by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), is one where Sen. Obhof said he's spoken with the sponsor and with the National Rifle Association in an effort to work out differences.

"Everything's on the table," he said.

### **PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement**

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's approval Wednesday of AEP Ohio's new rate plan sets the stage for what Chairman Asim Haque believes could be the state's longest period of rate stability in the last decade.

Mr. Haque made that assessment moments after the commission voted 4-0 to modify and approve a wide-ranging rate settlement agreement filed last year by AEP and 19 interested party groups. Commissioner Daniel Conway recused himself.

In addition to establishing rates until May 2024, the Electric Security Plan includes a \$21.1 million "Smart City Rider" to fund electric vehicle charging station development and microgrid investment.

If the commission later this year approves Duke Energy's own proposed settlement rate plan, rates would be stabilized for all four of Ohio's major electric utilities until the mid-2020s, Mr. Haque said.

"This decision represents stability for AEP customers," Mr. Haque said. "ESPs are big cases. They are time intensive and they are very litigious. To have stability in the AEP footprint...is a very good thing for AEP's current customers and for job creation in AEP's service territory."

The commission's order, which may still be appealed by opponents, has been years in the making.

AEP in 2016 filed its initial proposal but critics said that plan could pave the way for a 120% increase - from \$8.40 to \$18.40 a month - for affected customers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2016)

The company filed a settlement agreement last year with 19 parties including the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, the Natural Resources Defense Council to address those concerns. AEP has said

the stipulation would lead to a less than 50-cent increase in average monthly bills. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 28, 2017)

Julie Sloat, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer, said in a statement the plan responds to consumer requests.

"Our customers want reliability and access to advanced technologies, such as EV charging stations, microgrids and renewable energy resources," she said.

"Our plan allows us to bring these services, which also will support economic development in Ohio, to customers across the state. The ESP enables us to continue our investments in the electric grid to provide reliable power and help advance the new technologies and cleaner energy that our customers want."

Dan Sawmiller, the NRDC's Ohio energy policy director, said one surprising modification made by the commission in its order is the removal of a provision that would have enabled AEP to push back that requested 120% increase until 2020.

Other wins from supporters' point of view is a \$10 million rebate program for electrical vehicle charging stations, \$10.5 million for microgrid projects, and regulatory tweaks clearing the way for 900 megawatts of clean energy in Appalachia, Mr. Sawmiller said.

"AEP's now going to be positioned to respond to the expectations of Ohio customers that have been pushing AEP to invest in more clean energy options for years," Mr. Sawmiller said. "On top of that there are some pilot programs in the stipulation and the data and the insight we're going to gain...create the groundwork for a lot of forward-looking progress."

The agreement still has its detractors, including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, which has argued the deal lacks specifics on customer costs and that the "Smart City Rider" should have been tackled through a separate rate case. The OCC last month petitioned the PUCO to reopen the case to enable further debate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 2, 2018)

"With the PUCO's approval of AEP's electric security plan today, the trend of charging Ohioans to subsidize outdated and non-competitive power plants continues," OCC spokeswoman Molly McGuire said. "And AEP's plan will also leave consumers paying subsidies for electric vehicle charging, microgrids, large customers (interruptible rates), automakers (bill credits), and possibly renewable energy."

The OCC has continued to press lawmakers to pass a bill (HB 247) banning Electric Security Plans, which it says deprive consumers of the benefits of competitive markets.

But in its order the PUCO determined that the ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate" than a market rate offer, which is the statutory guideline by which the commission evaluates ESPs.



"The ESP proposed in the stipulation affords customers in AEP Ohio's service territory numerous benefits and advances many of the state policy objectives enumerated in (Ohio Revised Code)," the PUCO's order reads.

Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman issued a concurring opinion elaborating on the aforementioned statutory provision - O.R.C. 4928.02 (C) - which establishes state policy as promoting customer choice, encouraging innovation and facilitating the development of the competitive retail electric market through flexible regulatory treatment.

Mr. Friedeman opined that market distortions resulting from cost imbalances might undermine that code section and that those distortions may "erect market barriers which have the tendency not to promote retail competition but rather to have an anti-competitive impact or in an extreme eventuality to re-monopolize the retail market inconsistent with enunciated state policy."

### **House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker**

House Republicans will vote next month to choose the next speaker, and it is likely that the results of primary elections will influence who gets the gavel.

The majority caucus will vote at noon Tuesday, May 15, to choose its next leader, Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said in a memo to members.

The special caucus will only consider votes for a new speaker to fill out the remainder of the year, not any other leadership positions, Rep. Schuring said.

The new speaker will replace Cliff Rosenberger, who resigned earlier this month amid an investigation by the FBI. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

The speaker's race for the rest of the year could come down to the two candidates who have already been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Another possibility is that the caucus will select a placeholder speaker to finish out the year, and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), who is term-limited, has expressed interest in that role.

Rep. Smith has said he's confident he can win the speaker's chair when a vote is called. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2018)

He and Rep. Householder have both been supporting candidates in primary races in an effort to secure a majority in the next General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2018)

If the race comes down to Rep. Smith and Rep. Householder, a likely factor in the race will be the results of the primary election, to be held a week before the speaker vote.

The caucus could also choose a placeholder speaker, likely a term-limited member. Rep. Pelanda said she has discussed the possibility that she run to finish out the rest of

the year. Unlike the other hopefuls, she would be able to do so without the distraction of running in another election.

"I truly believe that it's in the best interest of the members of the Ohio House of Representatives that we have an interim leader to finish out the business of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly," she said in an interview.

She said she has not aligned herself with either of the other speaker candidates and said she has had "thoughtful, encouraging" conversations with fellow members about running.

"We've got three weeks until the election and the members will continue to be thoughtful about what is in the best interest going forward for this assembly," she said.

### **Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions**

Existing tax breaks supporting the coal and agriculture sectors should be preserved, stakeholder groups told the Tax Expenditure Review Committee Wednesday.

The Ohio Coal Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation were among a handful of interested groups arguing in favor of continuing certain tax exemptions as the panel considers whether to preserve or scrap them. (Testimony)

Their arguments are essentially the same - that their respective industries are experiencing trying times and therefore need all the assistance they can get.

OCA President Mike Cope said the coal industry is just now beginning to recover from the "relentless war on coal" waged by the Obama Administration.

"Any tax levied on the purchase of new equipment would be devastating to our recovering industry," Mr. Cope said. "State policy that could increase the cost of coal mining could translate into higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers."

The tax credit Mr. Cope was referring to exempts tangible personal property used directly in mining. Memos from the Department of Taxation estimate that the break costs the General Revenue Fund \$73.4 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$74.3 million in FY 2019. (ODT Analyses)

The Farm Bureau, meanwhile, lobbied for the continuation of credits pertaining to tangible personal property used in agriculture and for the sales and installation of agricultural land tile and portable grain bins.

The former credit lowered GRF revenues by \$331.1 million and \$339.4 million in FY 2018 and 2019, ODT reported. The tile and grain bin concession has a smaller impact at just over \$1 million in each of those years.

"The application of sales tax to input costs of a capital intensive, low profit industry such as agriculture would have significant and severe consequences," said Tony Seegers, the group's director of state policy. "Farm Bureau strongly believes the sales tax exemption must be preserved."

If lawmakers did away with those tax credits, Mr. Seegers said, the higher costs wouldn't immediately be passed onto consumers through costs. Instead, he said farmers themselves would be forced to swallow the change.

"Because prices are dictated by commodity exchanges and global demand, increased costs associated with applying sales tax to inputs will largely be eaten by farmers," he said. "Considering the profit margins we operate on, one can't help to think this would very likely drive some farmers out of business."

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants submitted written testimony defending an exemption for tangible personal property used in storing, preparing and serving food. ODT estimates a GRF impact of about \$34 million each fiscal year for the biennium due to that exemption.

"This exemption is vital to retailers engaged in providing food products to the general public, as well as to the public served by those retailers who benefit from lower prices as a result," the council argued.

Two other exemptions were on Wednesday's agenda but received no public feedback. They included sales of tangible personal property and services to electricity providers, and TPP used to produce printed materials. In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, those exemptions were expected to cost the GRF \$699.9 million and \$19.7 million respectively, according to ODT.

Wednesday's was the third overall meeting of the committee, which is tasked with reviewing all of Ohio's tax credits over the next eight years. The committee will meet again May 9 to discuss the remaining handful of sales and use tax breaks.

Chairman Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) said he anticipates the May meeting to be the committee's last this spring. The sales and use exemptions examined during the committee's meetings this year will form the basis of its first report this summer, he said.

"I think we're progressing in a manner that will help us make some decisions down the road and hopefully educate the people of Ohio who are watching," Sen. Oelslager said of the committee's work thus far.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing other exemptions heading into 2019 and has eight years to fully review all \$9 billion-plus a year Ohio's tax credits. The panel has already looked at manufacturing, packaging and a handful of other exemptions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2018)

In general testimony, Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, told members the legislature should appropriate funding for staff to undertake a more detailed analysis of the genesis of specific credits and how they have been broadened over time.

He also bemoaned that even as the committee continues its review lawmakers are still proposing and considering new tax exemptions through legislation.

"Adding new special-interest breaks is ill-conceived when this committee has barely started looking at the tax exemptions and credits we have now," Mr. Schiller said. "When the General Assembly thinks about giving away tens of millions for new business tax breaks, it should consider whether we have the money to pay for them, and whether the funds would be better spent educating young Ohioans, cutting our high infant-mortality rate, or fighting the opioid epidemic."

### **Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies**

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday denied several motions for reconsideration, including in two high-profile cases involving abortion and public records.

In one case, the court declined to reconsider its February ruling that found the Department of Health was justified in revoking the operating license of a Toledo abortion clinic for lack of a written transfer agreement with a "local" hospital.

In the ruling, the court found that Capital Care Network of Toledo violated state administrative code by inking a written transfer agreement with an Ann Arbor hospital, which the ODH deemed to not be local. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 6, 2018)

Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis called on the state to revoke the license of Toledo's only abortion clinic.

"Capital Care Network owes an enormous fine of \$40,000 to the state of Ohio, based upon repeated violations of state law," he said. "The original Ohio Department of Health order remains in effect and in order to reopen, this abortion facility must reapply for a license and pay its fine before aborting anymore children."

However, in a statement of its own NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio called on the ODH to immediately reinstate the license for the clinic.

"This morning, a woman in Toledo woke up with the knowledge that she needed an abortion," Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. "There is a clinic in her community that can offer her safe and professional care. That clinic has met all state requirements to provide abortion services. John Kasich and Mike DeWine are standing in between that woman and this clinic, and they are violating her rights as they do so."

Shortly after the court's original decision, the clinic lined up a last-minute transfer agreement with ProMedica.

The court also declined to reconsider its December decision in which it ruled against two newspapers that sought to compel the release of the final, un-redacted autopsy reports of eight individuals murdered in a single night in April 2016 in a Pike County case that is still unsolved.

The divided court in a 4-3 decision found the records requested by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Columbus Dispatch* fall under the confidential law enforcement investigatory records exemption. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 14, 2017)

The newspapers had argued that under the law final autopsy reports do not qualify for the CLEIR exemption because a coroner is not a law enforcement official.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell and Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented with the ruling on the motion to reconsider.

In a less high-profile case, the court also declined to reconsider its decision not to accept jurisdiction in a case in which a commercial fishing operation alleged that the state's administrative code defining Lake Erie yellow perch management units is unconstitutionally vague. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 14, 2017)

### **High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals**

When an appellate court reviews a lower court ruling on an arbitration decision it should conduct an independent review of the legal claims made on appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, the high court determined appellate courts should accept findings of fact by trial courts that are not clearly made in error while reviewing the legal questions raised on appeal.

"When reviewing a trial court's decision to confirm, modify, vacate, or correct an arbitration award, an appellate court should accept findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous but should review questions of law de novo," Justice O'Donnell ruled.

The case stems from a dispute between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one of its employees, the high court reported.

Patricia Byttner was hired to serve as an account clerk for the board with the understanding she would fill the role of a bus driver or bus aide in emergency situations.

After her hiring, Ms. Byttner refused a bus aide assignment, citing a pending knee surgery.

Two months later, the board amended her job description, leading to the union representing her to file a grievance. An arbitrator sided with Ms. Byttner and the union.

The board then successfully asked the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to vacate the ruling.

The union challenged the trial court decision at the Eleventh District Court of Appeals, which reinstated the arbitrator's decision.

However, the decision conflicted with other appellate court rulings, leading the case to the high court.

"In conformity with our resolution of the certified question, we recognize that the court of appeals conducted a proper de novo review of the trial court's decision in this case vacating the arbitration award, reversed its decision, reinstated the arbitration award, and therefore we affirm its judgment," Justice O'Donnell wrote for the court.

In his decision, Justice O'Donnell noted that nine of the state's appellate courts applied a de novo review while three applied an "abuse of discretion" review.

Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Sadler sat in on the case for former Justice Bill O'Neill.

### **Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits**

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton on Wednesday unveiled her campaign's plan to safeguard health care benefits and create new employment protections for the state's servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. Sutton, the Democratic running mate of Rich Cordray, and former gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich unveiled the campaign's policies regarding members of the armed forces at a press conference at the Statehouse Veterans Plaza.

The former congresswoman said the state has not done enough to support the men and women who are serving or have served in the military. She said enhancing services for veterans and better connecting them with existing resources would be a "top priority" in Cordray's administration.

"Too often our respect and admiration simply hasn't been matched by tangible action to help our veterans and servicemembers," she said.

The campaign's plan calls for the state to better fund county veterans services commissions to help them assist veterans making medical claims, offer incentives for employees who hire veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries, and protect the state's expansion of Medicaid for veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Ms. Pillich, the head of the campaign's veterans policy team, said the "No. 1 concern" among veterans she has talked to throughout the state is health care. She said the Cordray campaign's plan would safeguard and expand important resources for servicemembers.

"Ohio veterans need much more than a specialty license plate," she said.

The former Ohio House member and U.S. Air Force veteran said the campaign also is proposing to include a box for veterans to check on state tax returns to allow the governor's office to identify them and connect them with available resources.

The plan also suggests the state protect the jobs of Army National Guard members who have been activated and allow spouses who lose their jobs because of a servicemember's transfer to collect unemployment benefits.

Ms. Sutton said she and her running mate also would make it a priority to take combat "predatory lenders" who target veterans.

"I can think of no leader with stronger credentials to do that than Rich Cordray," she said, citing her running mate's tenure as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Sutton, who previously served on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, also pointed to Mr. Cordray's work on a successful 2009 ballot issue to authorize bonuses for veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf as evidence of his support for servicemembers.

"We owe veterans an enormous debt of gratitude, but our gratitude must be matched by tangible action by state government to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and military families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "Betty and I will fight every day in office to honor those who have served and provide them with the support they need to thrive in Ohio."

**Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...**

Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday said setting standards for verifying e-school enrollment falls within the legislature's purview after a whistleblower's claims thrust a shuttered charter school back into the spotlight.

The chamber leader said after a nonvoting session that the body "should take a look" at how the state measures enrollment and funds such schools rather than fully deferring to ODE.

"When the legislature's able to do things or has the responsibility for doing things, it should be the legislature, not an administrative agency, that does that," he said.

The Associated Press first reported an employee of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow told Department of Education officials last year that the school demanded workers manipulate attendance figures after the state moved to recoup \$60 million in

payments. Within hours, the former employee's claim became an issue among candidates for attorney general and auditor. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 24, 2018)

Despite backing an examination of the issue by the legislature, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said he does not support "micromanaging all of the fine-tuned details" of the state's enrollment-verification process.

A bill (HB 611) sponsored by Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) that would tie state payments to e-schools to the use of verifiable software that tracks attendance, class size and participation was introduced last week in the House.

**Alliance for the American Dream:** Ohio State University has received a \$1.5 grant after a philanthropic organization selected the school to participate in an effort aimed at bolstering the middle class.

Schmidt Futures, a group founded by former Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, announced this week it added OSU to its Alliance for the American Dream. The effort seeks to increase economic opportunities for working Americans and reduce poverty.

"We are delighted to announce that Ohio State will act as an inaugural partner in the Alliance for the American Dream," Mr. Schmidt said in a statement. "When I was in Columbus last December, I saw firsthand the energy and vibrancy of the campus and region. Columbus is a perfect place to find great, fresh ideas. We are delighted to support them as they fuel an innovation engine to help distressed communities and expand the middle class."

As part of the collaborative project, OSU will receive \$1.5 million in funding to engage business, community and government leaders in "in a robust brainstorming process," according to a news release from the school.

"As a modern land-grant university, Ohio State is committed to expanding opportunity, unlocking talent and increasing economic vitality," OSU President Michael V. Drake said in a statement. "We are absolutely thrilled to join the Alliance and to partner with individuals and communities on this important and timely endeavor. It's 'The Columbus Way' in action."

**Teacher training bill:** U.S. Senator Rob Portman announced the introduction of a bill aimed at establishing a grant program to support training for career and technical education teachers

"Quality CTE teachers play a key role in expanding access to high quality programs and making sure more students and parents recognize the value of a CTE education - all of which helps lead to more and better job opportunities for students," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to ensure that we have better prepared teachers for this generation and generations to come."



The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would provide funding for one-year residencies at schools for potential career and technical educators.

Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) is co-chairman of the Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). The co-chairs introduced the legislation alongside Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Association for Career and Technical Education have expressed support for the measure.

**Feasibility study:** Belmont County school districts could save money by combining their efforts to maintain school buses, according to a study called the "first of its kind" by the state auditor's office.

The Bellaire Local School District, the Bridgeport Exempted Village School District, the Shadyside Local School District and the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District requested the state perform the study after seeing the number of bus riders decrease in recent years.

The study found the districts could operate more efficiently and save money by combining some maintenance efforts. Legislation (HB5) that took effect in 2016 gave the auditor's office the power to study the feasibility of potential efforts to share services among local governments.

"Ohio has thousands of local government entities, which has the advantage of keeping government close to the people, but the drawback is duplication of effort," State Auditor Dave Yost said in a statement. "Sharing services can keep government close to the people while reducing redundant administration, facilities and equipment. This saves money and improves efficiency for taxpayers. It also is a way to continue providing an adequate level of service even if costs rise or budgets shrink."

#### **Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...**

Zack Space announced that he is embarking on a two-day, five-city tour detailing the "corrupt culture on Capitol Square."

The state auditor hopeful in a statement cited the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow scandal and the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger as examples of the "the pervasive culture of corruption."

"We must take state government back from the self-interested incumbents and campaign contributors who put their special interests above the needs of ordinary Ohioans," he said in a statement. "That's why I am calling for a wide-ranging criminal investigation into ECOT and for the politicians who aided and abetted this scam to

donate every cent of campaign contributions received from ECOT founder Bill Lager and his associates to charities supporting Ohio public schools."

The tour included Wednesday stops in Youngstown and Steubenville and will head to events in Dayton, Toledo and Lima on Thursday.

**New Ad:** Democrat Richard Cordray is up with his second television ad in his gubernatorial campaign.

In "Save," the former director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau touts his record of protecting consumers.

"As treasurer, Cordray safeguarded your tax dollars. As attorney general he recovered \$2 billion that Wall Street stole," the narrator says in the 30-second spot. "That's why President Obama chose him to be our nation's top consumer watchdog."

**SEIU Backing:** Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who faces a primary challenge from Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland), announced on Wednesday the Service Employees International Union District 1199 WV/KY/OH is backing his candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement Anthony Caldwell, director of public affairs, in a statement cited the Richmond Heights Democrat's three-decade career as a union organizer.

"Yuko's career as a 30-year union organizer reinforces and guides his principles to support the people of his district and determination to help those who are most vulnerable. He wants families in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District and across Ohio to earn fair wages, a quality public education, and access to healthcare coverage," he said.

**Union Endorsement:** Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor picked up another endorsement in his bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

The Communications Workers of America Local 4502 announced Wednesday that it is backing his candidacy. President David McCune in a statement said Mr. O'Connor will fight to protect working families.

"Danny has a passion for issues that affect hard working men and women such as creating economic opportunity and jobs for Ohio, improving our education system, and safeguarding our voting rights and the commitment to work for families," he said.

**Farm Bill:** The Ohio Farmers Union announced Wednesday its opposition to the U.S. House's version of the farm bill.

President Joe Logan said the proposal "turned a blind eye toward the urgent needs of farmers for a strong safety net" and "to the nutrition needs of America's least fortunate in both rural and urban communities."

"The Congress and administration have clearly demonstrated a willingness to explode the federal budget deficit by giving a \$1.5 trillion tax cut to wealthy corporations and individuals," he added. "When rural America asks for a far more modest budget request, they can't manage to find a way to lend a hand."

**BWC Rebate:** In the wake of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's announcement that it is issuing an employer premium rebate to the tune of \$1.5 billion, the Ohio Association of Justice is questioning a challenge to an appellate court ruling that found some "scheduled loss awards" should be paid in lump sums.

BWC was paying those awards to workers who suffer amputations or loss of use due to industrial injuries on a biweekly basis.

"It is time to ask, when did the Ohio workers' compensation system stop being about injured workers?" John Van Doorn, government affairs director, said in a release. "We are all in favor of job creation in this state, but let's share some of the BWC's financial surplus with the injured workers who the system was constitutionally created to protect."

**Advocate Seeks KY Seat:** Longtime Ohio Statehouse fixture Col Owens is looking to enter the other side of the legislative political realm - just in another state.

Mr. Owens, who served for 30 years as senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio and was involved in Advocates for Ohio's Future and other groups backing health and human services funding, is running as a Democrat in Kentucky's 69<sup>th</sup> House District.

The lifelong Kentucky resident's candidacy is the subject of a fundraiser next month at the home of former Ohio Rep. Ted Celeste and wife Bobbie, 1230 Oakland Ave. in Grandview Heights.

Those interested in attending or seeking more information on the event, set for 5:30-7 p.m. May 10, should RSVP to Cathy Levine at [cathyjlevine@gmail.com](mailto:cathyjlevine@gmail.com) or 614-313-7478.

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## **Governor's Appointments**

**Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees:** Rick Ritzler of Galena (Delaware Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending August 31, 2023.

**Waterways Safety Council:** Amy Dingle of Dayton (Montgomery Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending January 30, 2021.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Friday, April 27**

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 9**

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Rm. 1914, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,  
Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, April 26

### Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

### Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, 30 W. Spring St., Room 3 on Level 2, Columbus, 8 a.m.

Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

### Event Planner

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000, Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel-Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf<sup>e</sup>, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 11:08 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Your September Arts Update

Webinar reminders, upcoming Riffe Gallery workshops,  
Governor's Awards nominations, #CreativityConnects, and more.

[View this email in your browser](#)  
Share your story with #ArtsOhio

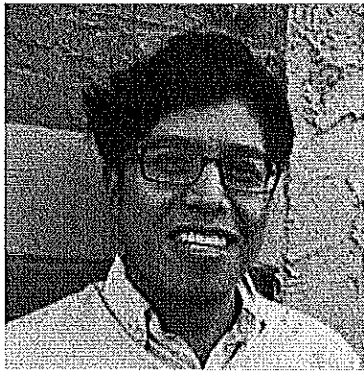


It has certainly been an active September at the Ohio Arts Council! While the weather may be holding onto summer, our days feel fresh with the "back-to-school" spirit that fall so often brings. This month alone, your OAC staff have been taking part in a variety of professional learning opportunities on topics such as accessibility, inclusion, leadership, and more. Just as we encourage our artists, arts organizations, and arts education teams to participate in their own professional development, we do the same – all with a goal to better serve you, your organizations, and better support the arts in Ohio. [Keep reading for more on the latest](#)



research from NEA Chairman Jane Chu (pictured above), our September reflections, and what October has in store.

---



**Creative Spotlight on Social  
Impact Investing | Part I**

"It really opens up the spectrum on how non-profit organizations can operate with more creative and strategic programing," David Cuatlacuatl, Sofia Quintero Arts and Cultural Center in Toledo.

As part of an ongoing blog series between the Ohio Arts Council and The Wells Foundation, **Creative Spotlight on Social Impact Investing** will highlight nonprofit leaders and organizations who are taking advantage of a new funding opportunity called social impact



**Welcome Your 2016  
Ohio Heritage Fellows**

Barry Wheeler of Ashland, Ohio, was awarded the heritage fellowship for Material Culture. He learned his art form through generations of blacksmiths in his family.





investing. Patrick Westerlund breaks it down for us and interviews OAC scholarship recipient David in our first post.

[Get the full story here.](#)

[Elena Hernandez](#) received the award for Community Leadership for her contribution to the Toledo area through Mexican folkloric dance.

Don't forget to join us **TODAY** at 1:30 p.m. for a free webinar: [Lions, Tigers, and Boards...Oh My!](#) Christy Farnbauch, OAC innovation and engagement director, will share best practices and resources created from her work with nonprofit boards. There's still time to [register online](#).

**OCTOBER WEBINAR | [Social Media on a Shoestring: Doing a Lot with a Little](#)**



Every artist or arts organization today needs a strong social media identity. Do you struggle to cultivate an effective online presence when you are strapped for time, money, and know-how? In this webinar, Lindsay Fullerton, Ph.D., of New Median Consulting, will share some easy ways to make a big impact through social media. You will learn how to identify your social media goals, develop strategies to make the most of your content, and integrate social media into your daily work routine. [Learn more and register online.](#)

# Governor's Awards

## OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

The Governor's Awards for the Arts celebrate artistic excellence, and the creative and philanthropic spirit that thrives in the state of Ohio. All nominations are accepted online. **The deadline to submit a nomination is Monday, October 24, at 5 p.m.**

[READ THE HOW-TO BLOG POST](#)

**SAVE THE DATE** | Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio will take place Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Stay tuned for more details. Join the celebration with [#OHGovAwards17](#).



**National  
Endowment  
for the Arts**  
[arts.gov](#)

*Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Affecting U.S. Artists* is a new report from the National Endowment for the Arts examining the values and needs of artists. Make sure you explore 'Bright Spots' an interactive graphic on the NEA website.

Ohio's full-time public servants are invited to showcase their artistic talents outside the 9-to-5 in the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery juried exhibition *After Hours: Artwork by State of Ohio Employees*.

**AFTER  
HOURS**

**Artwork by  
State of Ohio  
Employees**

**SUBMIT YOUR WORK OR SHARE DETAILS TODAY**

### Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 24: Deadline to Submit a 2017

Governor's Award Nomination:

[oac.ohio.gov/GovernorsAwards/Nominate](http://oac.ohio.gov/GovernorsAwards/Nominate)

Oct. 26: Board Meeting

*October is National Arts & Humanities Month.*

### Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

**TODAY:** Excavating Stories Through Creative Writing w/ Michael London

Oct. 1: Family Workshop | Squeaky Clean Image Transfer w/ Stephen Takacs

*Earthy Delights on view until October 9.*



Excavating Stories Through Creative Writing, OAC and also a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the OAC's Creative Writing Program. The program is a collaboration between the OAC and the Ohio State University's Creative Writing Program.

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:04 PM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** February 📧 Arts Advocacy, Deadlines, & Webinars

Keep an eye on upcoming grant deadlines, past webinars now available online, and an important message on advocacy.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Share your story with #ArtsOhio



**VALUE OF THE ARTS & IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCACY**

It's that time of year when we begin to plan for National Arts Advocacy Day on March 20-21 in Washington, DC. It's always important to tell our stories of the economic, educational, and cultural value of the arts, but with a new president and Congress in place, it's especially critical that we communicate the value of federal funding for arts and culture through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – and its direct impact on Ohio's arts and cultural communities.



**KEEP READING DONNA'S MESSAGE**



### OHIO POETRY OUT LOUD EXPANDS REGIONALLY

Semifinals are underway in six regions of the state! Meet the *POL* partners near your community and wish the students good luck before the State Finals on March 4.

**MEET OUR PARTNERS**



### MARCH 28 WEBINAR WITH ARTS MIDWEST

Join us to discover funding and learning opportunities with Arts Midwest, including the Arts Midwest Booking and Education Conference and the Arts Midwest Touring Fund.

**REGISTER TODAY**

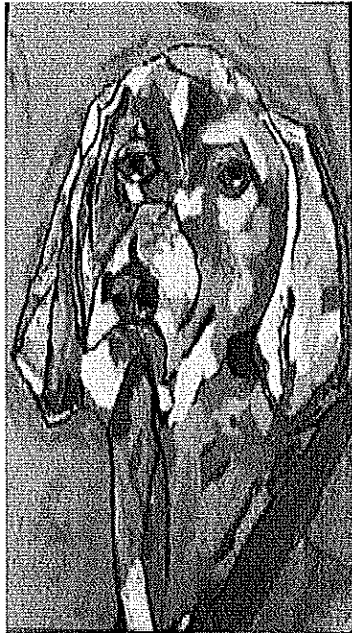


**WATCH WEBINARS ONLINE | OHIO ARTS COUNCIL YOUTUBE**

The OAC YouTube channel is going through an update to be your one-stop-shop for webinar resources. Miss last month's grants webinar? Want to review accessibility tips? We've got you covered. View complete sessions online, on your own time (and don't forget to subscribe!)

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**





## SPOTLIGHT: FEATURED ARTISTS AT THE OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

This season's Spotlight exhibition with Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich features artwork that inspires and thrives through the creativity of artists with disabilities. In a collaboration with [VSA Ohio](#), the artwork of 17 artists from seven organizations across the state will be on display at the [Governor's Residence](#) until May 2017. Visit [oac.ohio.gov/spotlight](http://oac.ohio.gov/spotlight) to view the complete brochure.

### MARCH 1

- [Arts Access](#) | General Operating Support for Small Organizations
- [ArtsNEXT](#) | Funding for Bold, Groundbreaking Projects

### APRIL 3

- [ArtSTART](#) | General Project Support for Organizations
- Reminder for Sustainability Grantees: Year 3 Updates Due

**CONTACTS:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov); and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [jjim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jjim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

## MARCH 1

- [Arts Partnership](#) | Support for Arts Education Projects

**CONTACT:** Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning Coordinator, [chiquita.mullinslee@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:chiquita.mullinslee@oac.ohio.gov)

## MARCH 15

- [Traditional Arts Apprenticeship](#) | Preserving Cultural Heritage through Collaboration
- [Heritage Fellowships](#) | Recognizing Ohio Folk and Traditional Artists

**CONTACT:** Kathy Signorino, Individual Artist Coordinator, [kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov)

### Mark Your Calendar

March 4: Ohio Poetry Out Loud State Finals  
at the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington

March 20-21: National Arts Advocacy Day in  
Washington D.C.

April 5: OAC Spring Board Meeting

April 24: Poetry Out Loud National Finals in  
Washington D.C.

May 17: Celebrate Arts Day & Governor's  
Awards for the Arts in Ohio in downtown  
Columbus

### Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

Drop-in during lunch for **FREE** workshops  
with Melissa Vogely-Woods during  
the *Come Along With Me* exhibition. All  
levels welcome!

---

March 8: Poetic text and collage

March 15: Folded book making

March 22: Interactive mail art

March 29: Personal narrative tree project

April 5: Stitched book binding workshop

April 12: Narrative-based collage project

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY | CAMA Digital Marketing

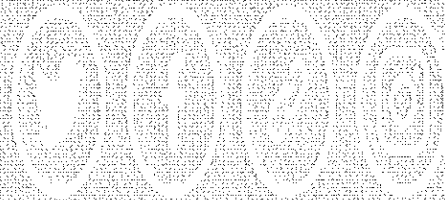
### Bootcamp

Wednesday, March 22, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Columbus Metropolitan Library (Parsons Branch)

Ceci Dadisman (digital marketer, speaker, nonprofit empowerer) will lead this hands-on, activity-driven session. It will equip you with strategies and methodology on how to best utilize digital marketing and social media for your organization. We'll delve into digital marketing for arts organizations and create a well-rounded and achievable plan for success. You'll learn what platforms have the highest return, how to use them, and how to track the results.

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE BY MARCH 15 | \$50 Non-CAMA Member Price or \$25 Member Price

*Image credits: 1) Ohio POL Partner, Emily Prince, at Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville; 2) 2015 Arts Midwest Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, photo by Tiffany Rodgers; 3) Carl Loftin, Wimaraner, Acrylic, Summit Developmental Disabilities.*



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**From:** Donna S. Collins  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:26 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Update on the National Endowment for the Arts



Dear Colleagues,

Unfortunately, speculation that President Donald Trump would propose eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has proven to be true. In his official budget request, President Trump has asked the U.S. Congress to zero out the NEA's budget.

Although this news is disappointing, we are nowhere near the end of the road for the NEA or public support of the arts. Consider the following:

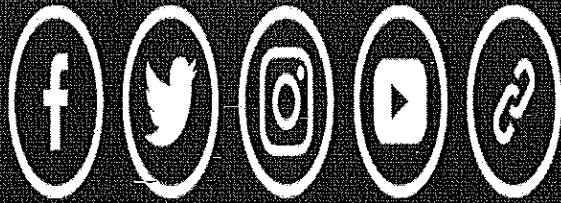
National Arts Advocacy Day is especially well-timed this year. On March 20-21—that's this coming Monday and Tuesday—arts supporters from across the nation will descend on Washington to make their voices heard. For more resources and information on how you can be an effective arts advocate, get in touch with our state's arts advocacy organization, Ohio Citizens for the Arts, or get involved at the federal level through Americans for the Arts.

Stay calm, remain strong, and be confident. The NEA has weathered these types of debates before, and together, the arts community will persevere.

Until next time,

*Donna A. Collins*

Donna S. Collins  
Executive Director  
Ohio Arts Council



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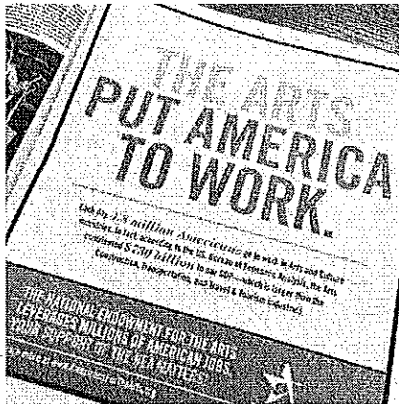
**From:** Ohio Arts Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** March 📧 Events, Advocacy, & Deadlines

Catch up with what's new on the blog, mark your calendar for panel meetings, and save the date for upcoming events.

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Share your story with #ArtsOhio



**ARTS ADVOCACY DAY RECAP**



As you know, last Thursday, President Donald Trump proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in his budget request to Congress. Without delay, advocates for the arts snapped into action to defend the importance of public funding for the arts.

Here at the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), we proudly carried the same message to Washington—public funding for the arts through the National Endowment for the Arts is essential.

**KEEP READING DONNA'S MESSAGE**



**MEET THE 2017 OHIO POETRY  
OUT LOUD STATE CHAMPION**



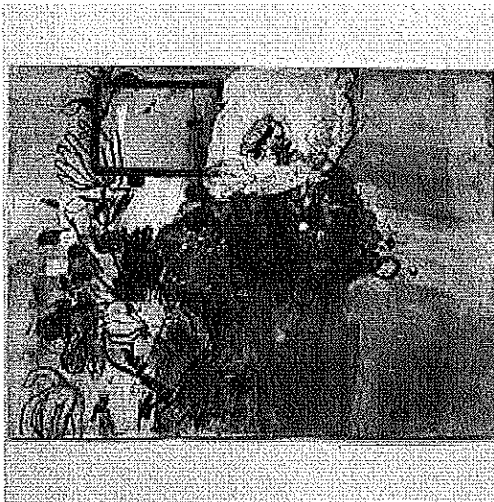
**SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING: THE  
DICK & JANE PROJECT**

Madeleine Schroeder, a senior at Columbus Alternative High School, won Ohio's 12th annual *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals held on March 4. She goes on to represent Ohio in the National Finals in Washington, D.C., April 25-26. Congrats and good luck to Maddie!

As part of an ongoing blog series with The Wells Foundation, Patrick Westerlund interviews Ben Shinabery, founder of the Dick & Jane Project, in this month's creative spotlight. Learn more about the organization and how alternative funding models fuel their success.

### **MORE ABOUT THE 2017 POETRY OUT LOUD FINALS**

### **DICK & JANE PROJECT + IMPACT INVESTING**



### **CONNECTED THROUGH THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE: PART 1 OF**

**3**

Experiences, the lessons learned



### **OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STUDENT ART EXHIBITION**

Artwork from each of the 99 districts

and communicated, are the concepts that drive the current exhibition *Come Along With Me*. In this series, Kim Webb, Riffe Gallery fellow, interviews three of the exhibited artists to hear their story. First up is Dan Jian.

of the Ohio House of Representatives is featured in this annual exhibition. [Check out photos](#) from the March 4 ceremony that honored the achievement and creativity of the 2017 student artists.

**RIFFE GALLERY ARTIST  
INTERVIEW WITH DAN JIAN**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
EXHIBITION**

#### **SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2017 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS WINNERS**

Get to know the winners through the words of their supporters. Head to the ArtsOhio blog to learn more about [Raymond Bobgan](#), [Jim McCutcheon](#), [SMARTS](#), and [Puffin Foundation West](#).

Posts will continue to be published as we count down to the luncheon on May

17.

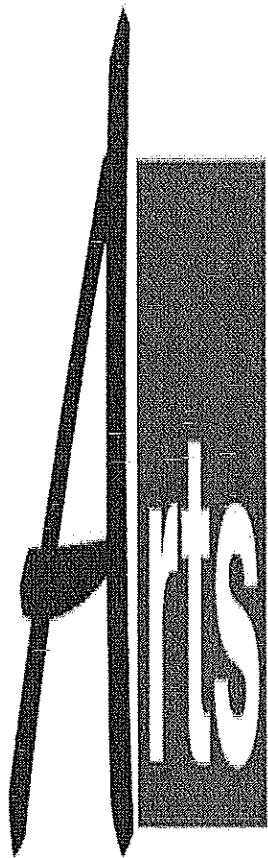


**PURCHASE TICKETS & PROGRAM ADS ONLINE**



REMINDER | MARCH 28 WEBINAR WITH ARTS  
MIDWEST

Tune in on Tuesday, March 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m. to discover funding and learning opportunities with Arts Midwest, including the Arts Midwest Booking and Education Conference and the Arts Midwest Touring Fund. Can't listen in? [Subscribe to the OAC's YouTube Channel](#) and watch the recording.



MIDWEST

REGISTER FOR THE ARTS MIDWEST WEBINAR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &  
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

**CAUSE COLLABORATIVE**

June 2, 2017, at the Columbus College  
of Art and Design

Cause Collaborative is an annual event  
catered to the nonprofit and social  
enterprise community. This year's  
conversations are centered on the theme  
*Art Unites Us*. Topics include fundraising,  
board development, diversity, strategic  
planning, and more. Visit  
[causecollab.com](http://causecollab.com) for a full schedule,  
sponsorship opportunities, and a look at  
past events. TICKETS ONLY \$50.



**Save the Date**

JUNE 2, 2017



### Mark Your Calendar

April 3: ArtSTART Deadline and

Sustainability Year 3 Updates Due

April 5: OAC Spring Board Meeting

April 6: Arts Access Panel Meeting

April 7: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship  
Panel Meeting

Arts Partnership | Day One

April 12: Arts Partnership | Day Two

April 18: ArtsNEXT | Day One

April 19: ArtsNEXT | Day Two

April 24: *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals in  
Washington D.C.

### Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

Drop-in during lunch for **FREE** workshops  
with Melissa Vogely-Woods during  
the *Come Along With Me* exhibition. All  
levels welcome!

---

March 29: Personal narrative tree project

April 5: Stitched book binding workshop

April 12: Narrative-based collage project

---

### Coming Soon | Lobby Exhibition

March 28 - April 3: *The Collage of Women  
Artists*

Artwork by female amateur and professional  
artists who grow, show, and paint together.

*Image credits: 1) Todd Callentine, Ohio POL event photographer; 2) Provided by Ben Shinabery of the  
Dick & Jane Project; 3) Courtesy of the artist Dan Jian, Blue Threads and Buddha's Hand; 4) Mike  
Elicson, Ohio House of Representatives event photographer.*



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**From:** Derksen, Nick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** FW: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

Cora,

Here is ODE's press release on National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week.

Best,

Nick  
614-466-2361  
[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)

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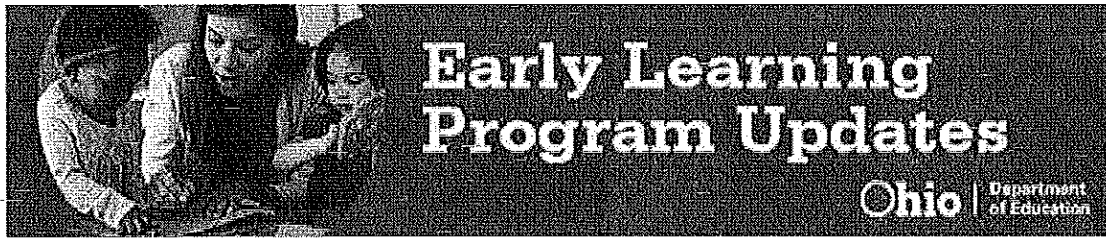
**From:** Ohio Ed Updates [<mailto:updates@subscription.education.ohio.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick <[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

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May 2017



## Thank A Teacher

National Teacher Appreciation Day, also known as National Teacher Day, is observed on the Tuesday of the first full week in May. This day is part of Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the first full week in May of each year.

The National Education Association describes National Teacher Day "as a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives".

Political and educational leaders first began discussions for a day to honor teachers in 1944. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim National Teachers' Day. Congress declared March 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day. The National Education Association continued to observe Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March until 1985, when the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day.

**National Teacher Appreciation Day - May 9, 2017**

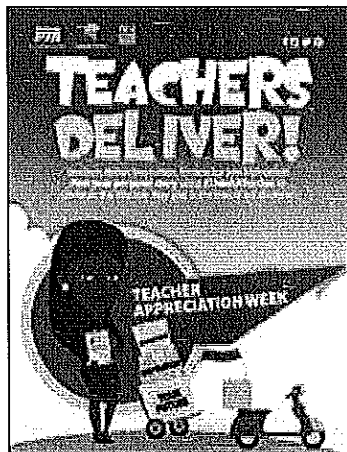
**Join us in saying "Thank You" to the tremendous teachers that you know.**



**National Teacher Appreciation Day** Tuesday of the first  
full week of May  
[www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com)

## Teacher Appreciation Week - May 8-12, 2017

Join us as we celebrate the hard work and important contributions of teachers during **National PTA's Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12, 2017.**



Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

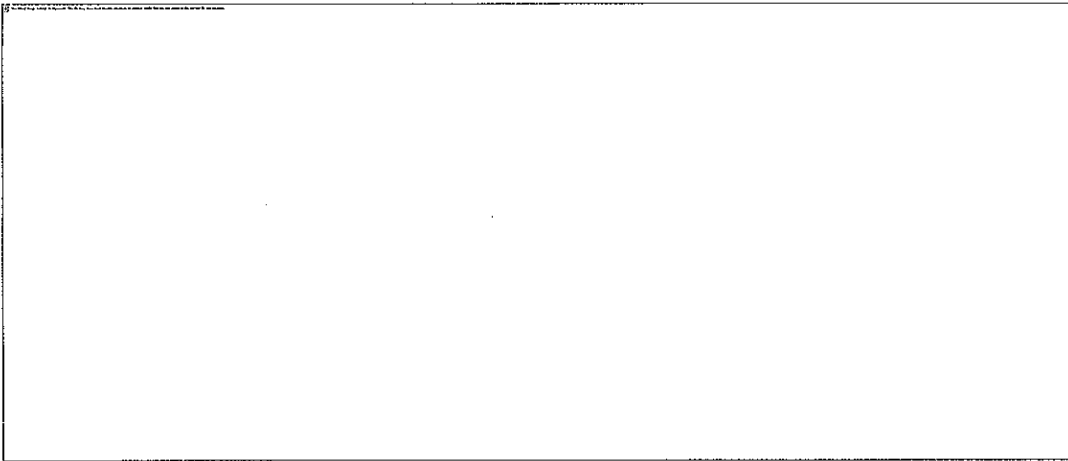
This year's theme is "Teachers Deliver." And they do! Teachers deliver so much to our students—inspiration, motivation and, ultimately, their futures. From May 8-12, 2017, we would like to celebrate teachers and deliver our thanks and gratitude to them.

Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Take the time to show your appreciation this week.

Here are few ways you can get involved:

- Have your children sign and present ready-made thank-you cards to their teachers!
- Have your school principal, PTA/PTSA President or students sign and present ready-made appreciation certificates to the teachers in your life.
- Share photos and your activities during the week by using the hashtag #ThankATeacher on social media!
- On Thursday, upload a #TBT of you and your favorite teacher and thank them using the official hashtag #ThankATeacher.



**Thank You Teachers!**

Ohio Department of Education | Office of Early Learning  
25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
877-644-6338 | [elsr@education.ohio.gov](mailto:elsr@education.ohio.gov)



Department  
of Education



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**From:** Slack, Cora  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** RE: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

Thanks, Nick!

---

**From:** Derksen, Nick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

Cora,

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Nick  
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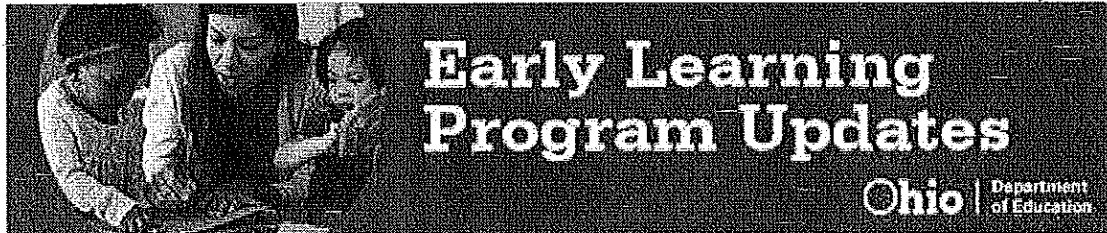
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May 2017



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Political and educational leaders first began discussions for a day to honor teachers in 1944. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim National Teachers' Day. Congress declared March 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day. The National Education Association continued to observe Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March until 1985, when the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day.

**National Teacher Appreciation Day - May 9, 2017**

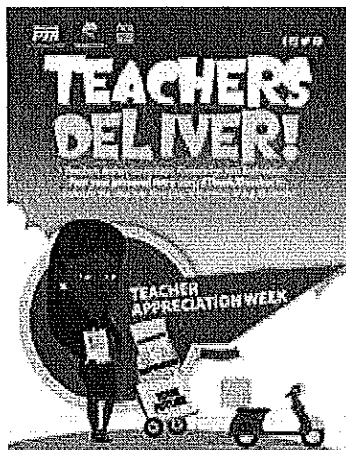
**Join us in saying "Thank You" to the tremendous teachers that you know.**



**National Teacher Appreciation Day** Tuesday of the first  
full week of May  
[www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com)

## **Teacher Appreciation Week - May 8-12, 2017**

Join us as we celebrate the hard work and important contributions of teachers during **National PTA's Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12, 2017.**



Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

This year's theme is "Teachers Deliver." And they do! Teachers deliver so much to our students—inspiration, motivation and, ultimately, their futures. From May 8-12, 2017, we would like to celebrate teachers and deliver our thanks and gratitude to them.

Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Take the time to show your appreciation this week.

Here are few ways you can get involved:

- Have your children sign and present ready-made thank-you cards to their teachers!
- Have your school principal, PTA/PTSA President or students sign and present ready-made appreciation certificates to the teachers in your life.
- Share photos and your activities during the week by using the hashtag #ThankATeacher on social media!
- On Thursday, upload a #TBT of you and your favorite teacher and thank them using the official hashtag #ThankATeacher.



---

**Thank You Teachers!**

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Ohio Department of Education | Office of Early Learning  
25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
877-644-6338 | [elsr@education.ohio.gov](mailto:elsr@education.ohio.gov)



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This email was sent to [nick.derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:nick.derksen@ohiohouse.gov) using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Ohio  
Department of Education · 25 South Front Street, · Columbus, Ohio 43215



**From:** Derksen, Nick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:15 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** RE: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

You're welcome!

Nick  
614-466-2361  
[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)

---

**From:** Slack, Cora  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick <[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

Thanks, Nick!

---

**From:** Derksen, Nick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora <[Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

Cora,

Here is ODE's press release on National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week.

Best,

Nick  
614-466-2361  
[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)

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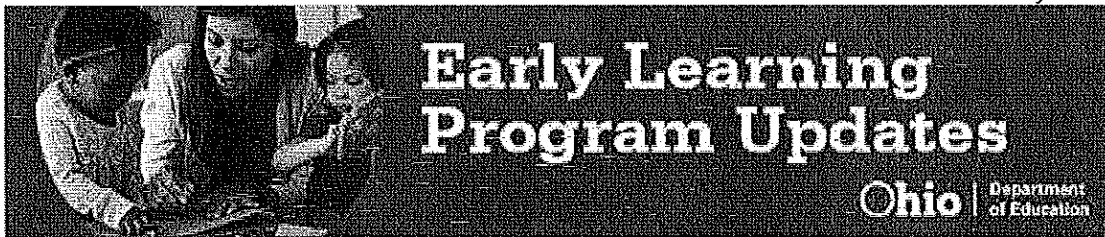
**From:** Ohio Ed Updates [<mailto:updates@subscription.education.ohio.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick <[Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** National Teacher Appreciation Day & Week - May 8-12, 2017

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May 2017



# Thank A Teacher

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the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day.

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## **National Teacher Appreciation Day - May 9, 2017**

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Join us in saying "Thank You" to the tremendous teachers that you know.



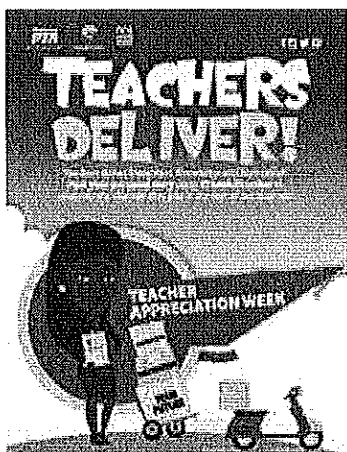
**National Teacher Appreciation Day** Tuesday of the first  
[www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com) full week of May

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---

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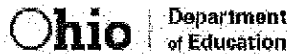


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## Thank You Teachers!

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25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
877-644-6338 | [elsr@education.ohio.gov](mailto:elsr@education.ohio.gov)



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= A

**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:32 AM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** May | Advocacy, Webinars, Deadlines

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Keep an eye on upcoming grant deadlines, past webinars now available online, and an important message on advocacy.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Share your story with #ArtsOhio

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## AN UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET



**National  
Endowment  
for the Arts**  
arts.gov

For the current federal fiscal year, Congress passed and the President signed a budget to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. However, for the next fiscal year, the President's proposal to eliminate the NEA looms. OAC Executive Director Donna S. Collins writes about what you can do to protect federal funding for the arts.

**READ DONNA'S MESSAGE**

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## GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS LUNCHEON PHOTOS

On May 17, nearly 700 people came together at the Columbus Athenaeum to celebrate Ohio artists, arts organizations, arts patrons, business supporters, and other leaders in the arts. Nine individuals and organizations received Governor's Awards and Karen Waldbillig Kasich received the William R. Joseph Ohio Arts Advocacy Medal.

**CHECK OUT THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS PHOTO ALBUM**

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NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS  
FOR OHIO POET LAUREATE

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2017 *POL* NATIONAL FINALS IN  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Madeleine Schroeder, a senior at  
Columbus Alternative High School,  
competed in the 2017 *Poetry Out  
Loud (POL)* National Finals at the  
Lisner Auditorium in Washington,  
D.C., on April 25. Congratulations to  
Maddy for her efforts!

INFO ON *POL* NATIONAL  
FINALS

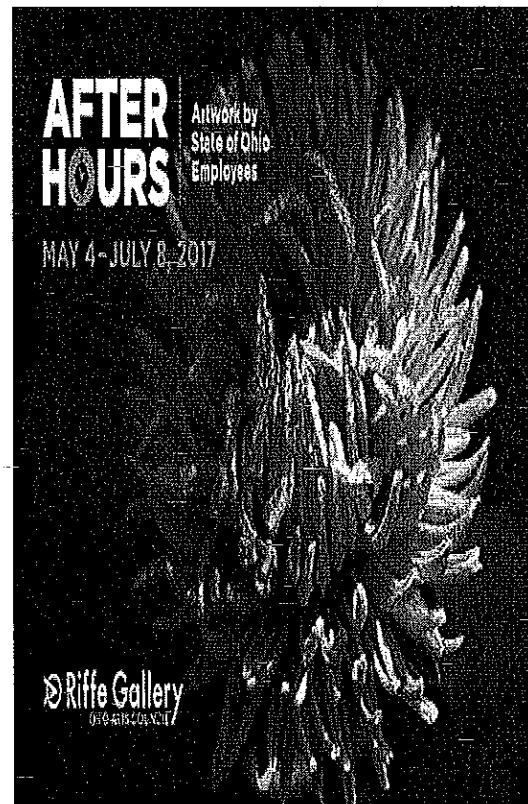
Do you know a great poet? The Ohio Poet Laureate has the opportunity to foster the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning. Position guidelines are available online. Nominations are being accepted now through July 5.

**NOMINATE TODAY**



#### WHEN MARKETING ISN'T ENOUGH

Christy Farnbauch, director of innovation and engagement, reflects on a recent workshop and shares her thoughts on improving the customer experience to keep people coming back.



#### AFTER HOURS EXHIBITION OPEN

Modeled after the OAC Riffe Gallery's 1989 exhibition showcasing the work of Vern Riffe Center employees, this exhibition features artwork by 43 public servants across Ohio. The exhibition is display through July 8.

## CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE BLOG

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### **Click. Click. Done: Developing Your Google Analytics Skills**

Today: Ceci Dadisman and Drew McManus will take us through the nuts and bolts of metrics to better understand the reporting tools inside Google Analytics. All attendees will receive step-by-step guides for creating custom reports, copies of all presentation materials, and the chance to implement skills in real time. There's still time to [register](#)!

### **Game Changed: DIY Video Editing on a Smartphone**

June 22, 1:30 p.m.: Join Beth Menduni to learn to edit your video message with Adobe Spark's FREE video editing app. This informational webinar will teach you how to edit photos and videos into a story and post them on social media. This is a must attend session for organizations and individual artists on a shoestring budget wanting to increase their DIY skills. [Register](#) today!

Want to catch up on all of our past webinars? [Subscribe to our YouTube channel!](#)

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FOR ARTISTS | Upcoming Grant Deadlines

**JUNE 1 = A**



- Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) - Individuals | Support for Individual Artists with Disabilities
- Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) - Organizations | Support for the Organizations that Serve Artists with Disabilities

**CONTACTS:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator,  
[brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov); and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator,  
[jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

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## FOR ORGANIZATIONS | Upcoming Grant Deadlines

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**JUNE 1**

- Building Cultural Diversity (BCD) | Supports new and emerging organizations whose mission, programs, staff and board represent culturally diverse communities
- Capacity Building (CB) | Support for organizations' efforts to improve business practices, or add new knowledge and skills that forward organizations' missions

**CONTACTS:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator,  
[brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov); and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator,  
[jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

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## FOR ALL | Deadlines & Dates to Remember

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**Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery**  
 Drop-in during lunch for **FREE** workshops

## Mark Your Calendar

June 22: Game Changed: DIY Video

Editing on a Smartphone Webinar

July 19: Summer Board Meeting

with artists featured in the *After Hours* exhibition. All levels welcome!

---

May 25: Polymer Clay Sculptures

June 1: Beading Embroidery

June 1: Tackling the Ten-Minute Play

= A Image credits: 1) Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts Luncheon, photo by Terry Gilliam; 2) National Poetry Out Loud finals, photo by James Kegley.

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You are receiving the monthly ArtsOhio newsletter because you signed up on the Ohio Arts Council website, through social media, or in-person at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery.

Ohio Arts Council  
30 East Broad Street, 33rd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 11:35 AM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** June | Partnership, Poetry, & More

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Keep an eye on upcoming webinars, open nominations and registrations, and the story of a successful partnership.

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Share your story with #ArtsOhio

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## **PARTNERSHIP ABOUNDS WITH STUDENT ARTISTS AND STATE AGENCIES**



On June 2, the Ohio Arts Council brought together students, artists, and arts and civil rights leaders for the opening of the 2017-2018 *Ohio Civil Rights Exhibition*. OAC Executive Director Donna S. Collins writes about the partnership involved to bring 39 art works to the Rhodes State Office Tower.

**READ DONNA'S MESSAGE**

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2018 *POL* SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

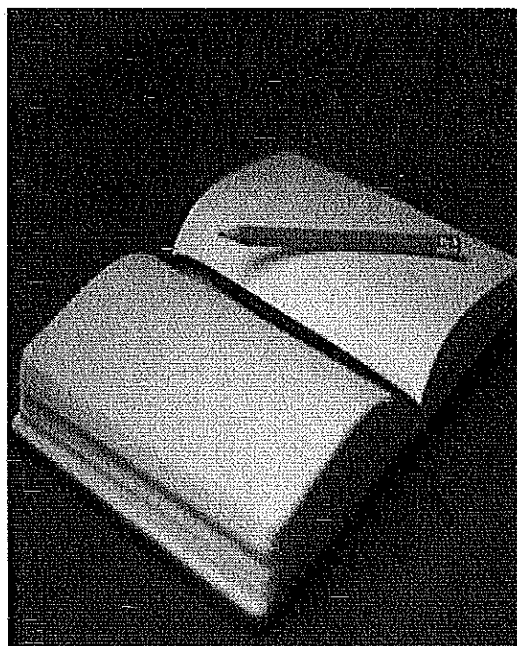
School registration is now open for the 2017-2018 *Ohio Poetry Out Loud*. Participation in *POL* is completely free and open to all Ohio high schools, including registration, program materials, workshops, and contests. Registration is open through winter.

**REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL**

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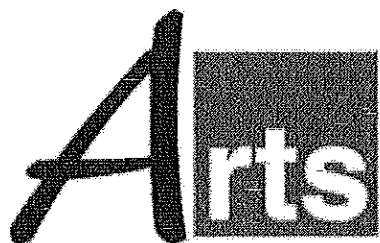
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**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS  
FOR OHIO POET LAUREATE**

Do you know a great poet? The Ohio Poet Laureate has the opportunity to foster the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning. Position guidelines are available online. Nominations are being accepted now through July 5.

**NOMINATE TODAY**



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## SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES OHIO GRANTEES

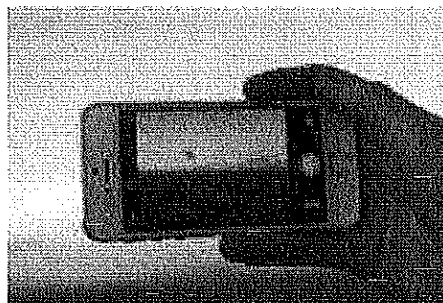
On May 31, Arts Midwest announced the 2017-2018 Shakespeare in American Communities grants. Both Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and Great Lakes Theater in Cleveland received grants that will allow them to present a Shakespearean production to local students.

**READ ABOUT THE  
GRANTEES**

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## GAME CHANGED: DIY VIDEO EDITING ON A SMARTPHONE

Join Beth Menduni to learn to edit your video message with Adobe Spark's FREE video editing app.

This webinar is perfect for organizations and individual-artists on a budget wanting to improve their DIY skills. To watch previous webinars, [subscribe to our YouTube page.](#)

**REGISTER TODAY**

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## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.2M TO OHIO RECIPIENTS**

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced a total of \$1,275,500 in grants to be awarded to 19 arts-related organizations across Ohio, including \$965,500 going to the Ohio Arts Council to help support arts initiatives across the state. This is the eighth year in a row that the OAC has earned the second-highest partnership agreement grant.

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**LEARN MORE ABOUT OHIO'S NEA GRANT RECIPIENTS**

## HAPPENING AT THE RIFFE GALLERY

### CURRENTLY ON VIEW



#### After Hours

Modeled after the OAC Riffe Gallery's 1989 exhibition showcasing the work of Vern Riffe Center employees, this exhibition features artwork by 43 public servants across Ohio. The exhibition is now on display through July 8. [Read Riffe Gallery fellow Kim Webb's recent interview with After Hours artist Jennifer Whitten.](#)

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### COMING SOON



#### OHIO: The Start of it All

Curated by Dan Chudzinski of the University of Findlay's Mazza Museum, the exhibition consists of 60 original children's book illustrations based on people, places, inventions, and more related to the great state of Ohio. [Read the OAC Riffe Gallery's recent announcement for the OHIO: The Start of it All Exhibition.](#)

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## FOR ALL | Deadlines & Dates to Remember

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#### Mark Your Calendar

June 22: Game Changed: DIY Video Editing on a Smartphone Webinar

#### Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

The OAC's Riffe Gallery is pleased to offer FREE tours for groups of up to 40 of OHIO: The Start of it All. Exhibition tours will be available July 31 through

July 5: Ohio Poet Laureate Nomination Deadline

July 19: Summer Board Meeting

October 12. For specific tour days and times,

contact OAC Riffe Gallery Director Mary Gray at

mary.gray@oac.ohio.gov or 614-728-2239.

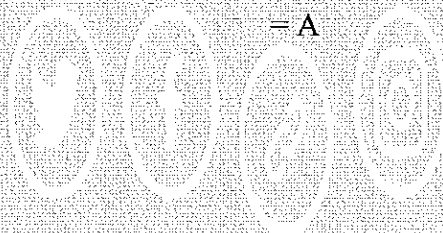
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Image credits: 1) Ohio Civil Rights Exhibition, photo by Kathy Signorino; 2) 2016 Premiere Performance at Shadowbox Live in Columbus, OH.

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You are receiving the monthly ArtsOhio newsletter because you signed up on the Ohio Arts Council website, through social media, or in-person at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery.

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 12:05 PM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** February | Updates on the NEA's budget, Ohio Arts Council grant deadline reminders & more

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Keep up to date on Ohio Arts Council news, grant deadlines, and more.

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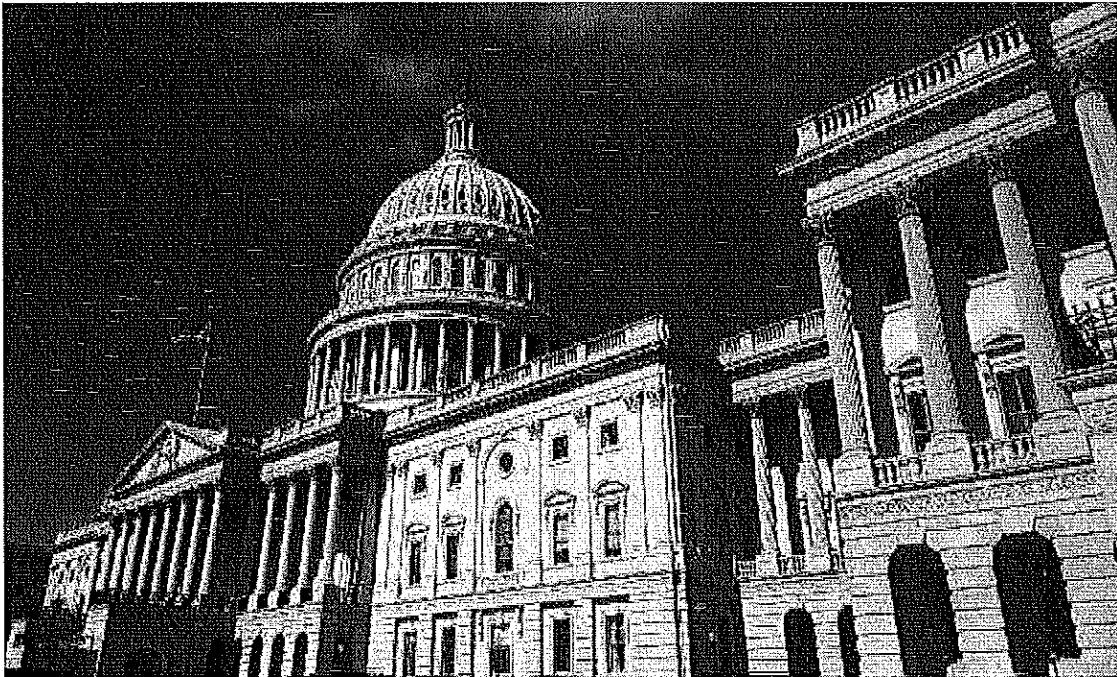
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## UPDATE ON THE NEA'S BUDGET

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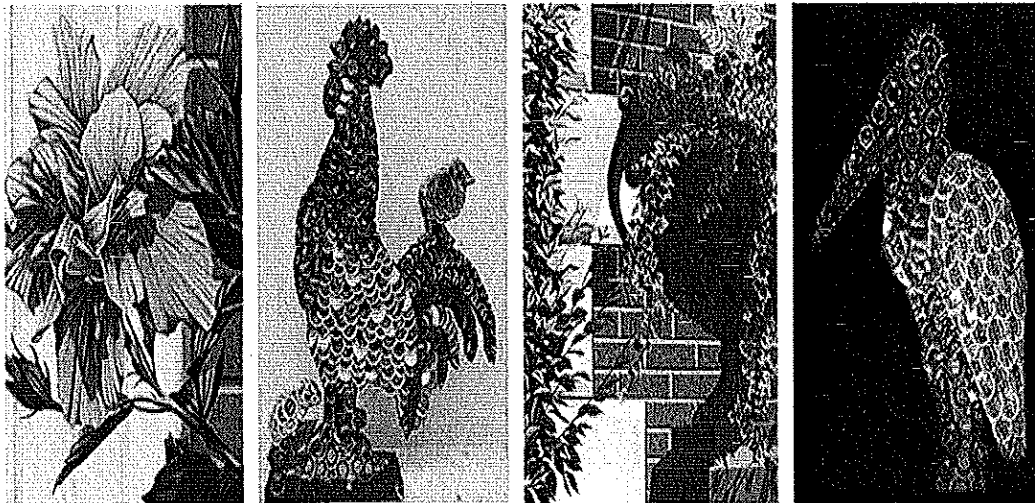
In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins provides an update on the budget process for federal Fiscal Year 2019.

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READ DONNA'S MESSAGE

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NORTH CANTON, ZANESVILLE ARTISTS' WORK  
FEATURED AT THE OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE  
THROUGH MARCH



As part of the newest "Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence" exhibition, artwork by Diane Belfiglio of North Canton and John Taylor-Lehman of Zanesville will be displayed at the Governor's Residence in Bexley through March. Both artists were selected by Ohio's First Lady Karen W. Kasich with the assistance of the Ohio Arts Council.

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[READ MORE](#)

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**National  
Endowment  
for the Arts**  
arts.gov

## NEA AWARDS MORE THAN \$520K TO OHIO ORGANIZATIONS

Twenty-six Ohio organizations have received grant awards through the National Endowment for the Arts' Art Works and Challenge America programs. Ohio nonprofits will receive a total of \$521,000 through the NEA's first round of federal Fiscal Year 2018 funding.

[READ MORE](#)



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DONNA S. COLLINS AWARDED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins received the Ohio Music Education Association's Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony on Feb. 9 in Columbus.

[READ MORE](#)

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## **OHIO ARTIST LEAH WONG RE-EXAMINES HER ROOTS**

"I was supposed to have a painting, but I didn't have any painting."

Ohio artist Leah Wong discusses her journey in search of artistic inspiration and how it led her to the OAC's collaborative residency with the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

[READ MORE](#)

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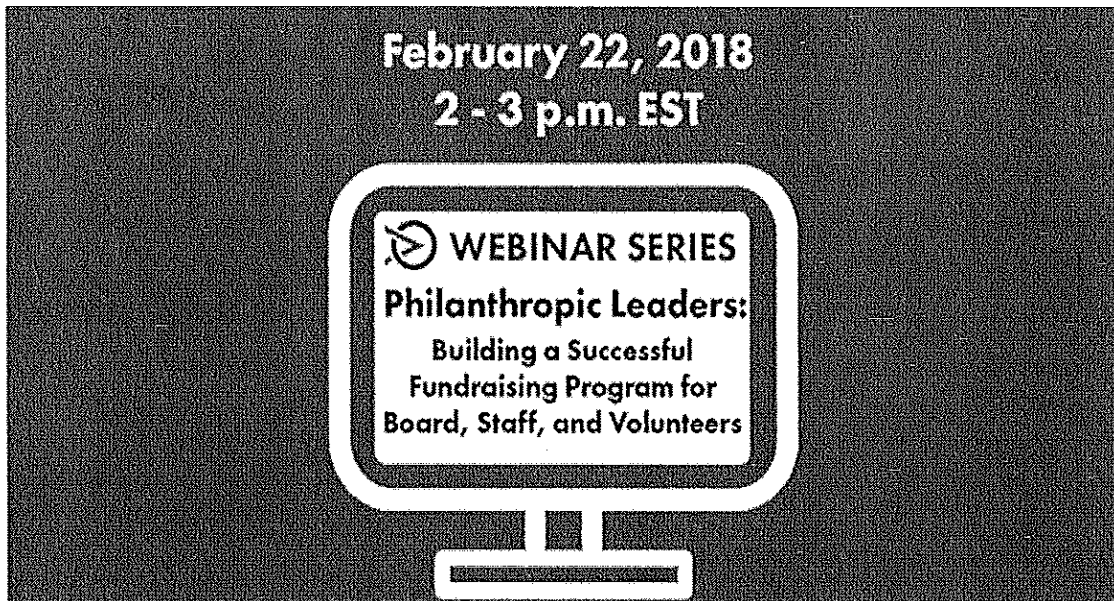


## MEET DAN KATONA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

A parody songwriter on the weekends, Ohio native, and traveler, the OAC's Deputy Director Dan Katona can only be described as one color: teal. "Because it's a little bit of this and a little bit of that," he says. You can find Dan in his office, where he proudly displays his three daughters' artwork and writes some pretty interesting emails.

[READ MORE](#)

## REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR FEBRUARY FUNDRAISING WEBINAR



**THURSDAY, FEB. 22, 2018, 2-3 p.m. EST:** Tune in to this **FREE** webinar led by Stacey Anderson, senior advisor at Aly Sterling Philanthropy, to learn more about fundraising program development for your organization.

[Click here](#) to watch a preview video about webinar. To register, click the button below.

**REGISTER HERE**

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**Art &  
Accessibility**



### **Art & Accessibility Tip #6: Sign up for an Accessibility Online session**

The Ohio Arts Council believes that everyone has the right of equal access to the arts. Each month, the ArtsOhio newsletter includes an accessibility tip for arts organizations. For additional accessibility resources, visit [oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility](http://oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility).

Did you know you can register for free accessibility training? Go to the Great Lakes ADA Center at [accessibilityonline.org/ao](http://accessibilityonline.org/ao) to read more and register today.

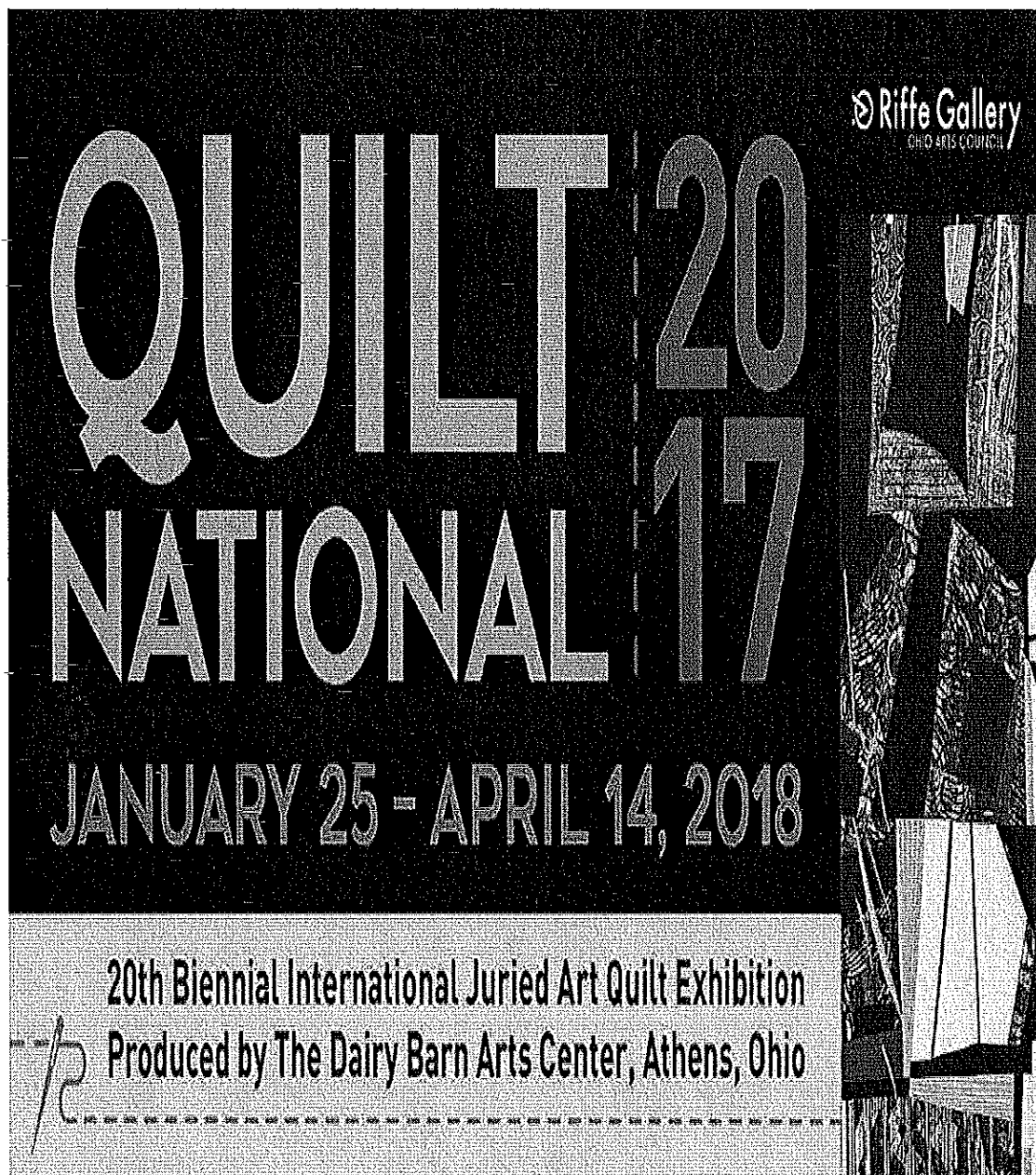
For more information about making your arts programming accessible, contact your Ohio Arts Council program coordinator at [oac.ohio.gov/About/Staff-Directory](http://oac.ohio.gov/About/Staff-Directory), including OAC Accessibility Coordinator Kim Turner at [kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov).

## **HAPPENING AT THE RIFFE GALLERY**

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**ON VIEW**



QUILT NATIONAL 2017  
January 25 - April 14, 2018

Produced by the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio, *Quilt National 2017* is the 20th

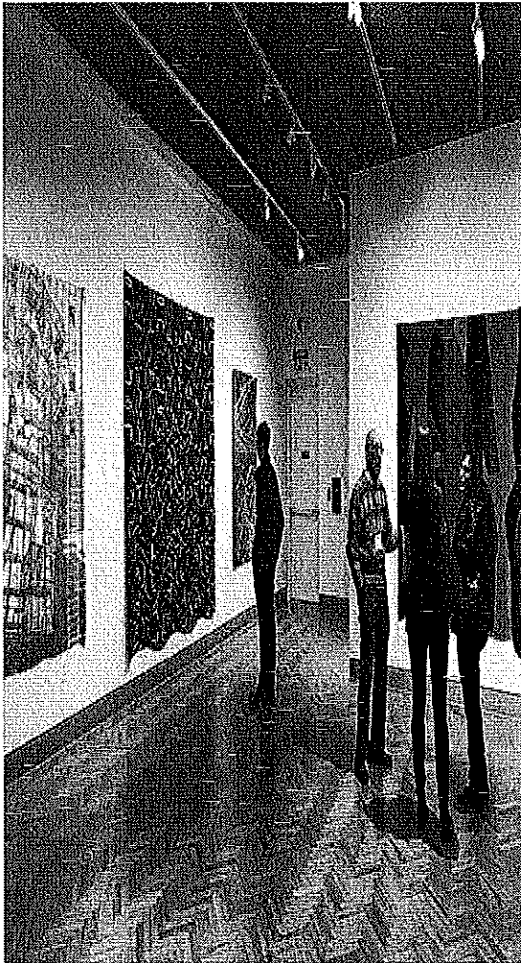
biennial international juried art quilt competition dedicated to the promotion of the contemporary art quilt. Its focus is to provide the viewer with a visual presentation of innovative trends in the medium of layered and stitched fabric. Artworks were selected by jurors Nancy Crow, Petra Fallaux, and Art Martin. The OAC Riffe Gallery will feature approximately 34 quilts by 34 artists from the original exhibition.

[Read more about the free events and programming scheduled for the OAC Riffe Gallery's Quilt National 2017 exhibition.](#)

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## PIECING IT TOGETHER: THE RIFFE GALLERY HOSTS QUILT NATIONALS

Quilt National 2017 marks the 20th biennial and continues to be enthusiastically dedicated to the promotion of the contemporary art quilt, providing the viewer a visual presentation of innovative trends in the medium of layered and stitched fabric.

[READ MORE](#)

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FOR ORGANIZATIONS | Grants & Opportunities

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### **MARCH 1: ArtsNEXT Grant Deadline**

The ArtsNEXT program provides competitive funding for innovative and experimental projects. Awards support big ideas that push boundaries, engage participants in unexpected ways, pilot new solutions to challenging problems, improve program design with calculated risk-taking, or result in the creation of new work. These forward-looking projects help define Ohio as an exciting, cutting-edge place to make, consume, and experience the arts.

Applicants may generally request between \$5,000 and \$20,000, though larger awards are possible in unique circumstances. All awards require a 1:1 cash match. [More information and grant guidelines are available on the Ohio Arts Council website.](#)

**CONTACT:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov) and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

**FOR ARTISTS | Grants & Opportunities**

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### **FEBRUARY 23: Call for Artists - Submissions Due**

The OAC is seeking women artists who are serving or have served in the military and who currently live in Ohio. Artists who work in painting, drawing, mixed media, and sculpture are eligible to participate in this exhibition which will specifically feature the works by women artists who are serving or have served in the armed forces.

This exhibition is part of a larger ongoing program, "Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence," which was developed by Ohio's First Lady Karen W. Kasich in collaboration with the OAC. This special exhibition, *2018 Artists' Spotlight: Works by Ohio's Military Women at the Ohio Governor's Residence*, celebrates works created by women veterans and current service members while helping to support and recognize their artistic accomplishments and their service in the military. [More information is available on the Ohio Arts Council website.](#)

**CONTACT:** Kathy Signorino, Artist Programs Coordinator, [kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov)

### **MARCH 15: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant Deadline**

The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program provides support for master artists to work with apprentices to build understanding and proficiency in folk and traditional art forms. By pairing exemplary practitioners of traditional art forms with dedicated apprentices, this program allows for concentrated study and cultural exchange. Traditional Arts Apprenticeship awards support the teaching and sharing of important cultural traditions, and enrich the lives of people throughout the state.

Master artists may request up to \$4,000 to work with one, and if appropriate, two, apprentices. At least 50 percent of the request must be used for master artist honoraria. No match is required. [More information and grant guidelines are available on the Ohio Arts Council website.](#)

**CONTACT:** Kathy Signorino, Artist Programs Coordinator, [kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov)

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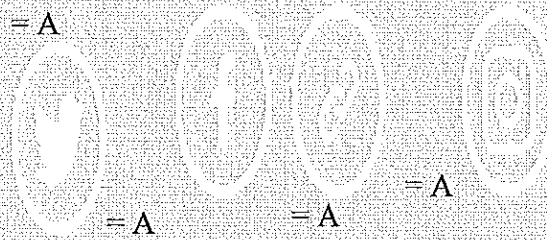
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*Image credits: 1) Photo courtesy of Pixabay, by user MotionStudios; 2) Artwork L-R: Diane Belfiglio, Opus in Orange, 2010, Oil Pastel on Paper, 19 1/2" x 15"; John Taylor-Lehman, Chick Magnet, 2017, Beer caps on scrap wood, 24" x 17" x 2"; Diane Belfiglio, Roman Urn, 1999, Acrylic on canvas, 50" x 30"; John Taylor-Lehman, Jabiru, 2015, Beer caps on scrap wood, 18" x 13" x 2"; 3) National Endowment for the Arts logo, Image Credit: NEA; 4) Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins, Photo Credit: Ohio Arts Council; 5) Leah Wong, Photo Credit: Courtesy of Leah Wong; 6) Meet the Staff graphic, Image Credit: Ohio Arts Council; 7) February webinar graphic, Image Credit: Ohio Arts Council; 8) Art & Accessibility Graphic, Image Credit: Ohio Arts Council; 9) Quilt National 2017 postcard, Image Credit: Rosemary Hoffenberg, Regatta, 2016, cotton, thread, natural batting, 43" x 38"; 10) Quilt National '17, Photo courtesy of the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery*

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2018 12:04 PM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** March | Governor's Awards registration now open & more

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Keep up to date on Ohio Arts Council news, grant deadlines, and more.

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Share your story with #ArtsOhio

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**THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND OHIO ... THIS IS US!**

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*National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins.*

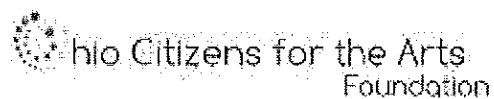
In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins shares good news regarding a budget increase for the NEA in federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018, provides an update on the NEA's FFY 2019 budget, and discusses her experiences at National Arts Advocacy Day.

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**READ DONNA'S MESSAGE**

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# Arts Day & GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS Luncheon MAY 16, 2018



## Registration Now Open

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Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts  
LUNCHEON | COLUMBUS ATHENAEUM | 12 P.M.

Registration is now open for the 2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts Luncheon. We can't wait to celebrate with you on **May 16!** Individual tickets are \$50 and include lunch and a dessert reception.

**Table sponsorships** are also available. Sponsorships are \$1,000 and include a reserved table with guaranteed seating for your group (each table seats 10), recognition in the Governor's Awards program, and recognition at the event.

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For more information about purchasing a table, [contact the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation](#).



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## **DAYTON STUDENT WINS 2018 OHIO *POETRY OUT LOUD* STATE FINALS**

Caroline Delaney of Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School will represent Ohio at the 2018 *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals in Washington D.C., April 23-25. Eleven Ohio finalists competed at the 2018 State Finals for the title of state champion.

[READ MORE](#)

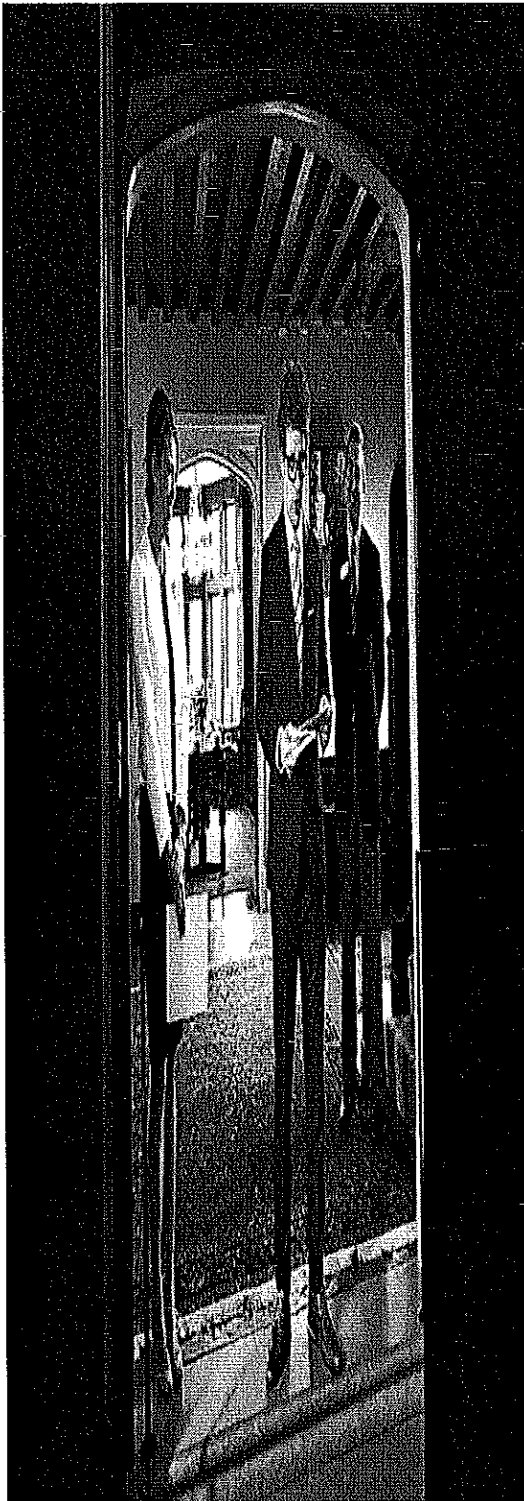




**COME TO THE CEILI:  
CINCINNATI'S RILEY  
SCHOOL OF IRISH MUSIC  
RECEIVES AN OHIO ARTS  
COUNCIL HERITAGE  
FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

Dedicated to the pursuit of Irish music, the Riley School received an Ohio Arts Council Heritage Fellowship Award for Community Leadership last fall.

[READ MORE](#)



**WATCH: OHIO POET  
LAUREATE DAVE LUCAS  
HONORED AT OHIO  
GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE**

Ohio Poet Laureate Dave Lucas recited his poems "Midwestern Cities" and "River on Fire" at a reception held at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden on March 13.

[WATCH IT HERE](#)



## MEET CHIQUITA MULLINS LEE, ARTS LEARNING COORDINATOR

A southern girl at heart and part of the agency's newly expanded Arts Education team of two, Chiquita is the Ohio Arts Council's resident writer extraordinaire. Learn about her dual roles as Arts Learning and *Poetry Out Loud* Coordinator in this meet the staff interview.

[READ MORE](#)

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REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR MARCH  
ACCESSIBILITY WEBINAR

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018, 2-3 p.m. EST:** Tune in to this FREE webinar led by VSA Ohio Executive Director Erin Hoppe, who will share tips and best practices to help you welcome and engage the broadest possible audiences at your in-person events.

[Click here](#) to watch a preview video about webinar. To register, click the button below.

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**REGISTER HERE**

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# Art & Accessibility

## **Art & Accessibility Tip #7: Share Your Accessibility Story**

The Ohio Arts Council believes that everyone has the right of equal access to the arts. Each month, the ArtsOhio newsletter includes an accessibility tip for arts organizations. For additional accessibility resources, visit [oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility](http://oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility).

Accessibility is a broad topic. Accessibility can be sign language interpreters, closed or open captioning, large print materials, Braille, a calming area, touch tours, restrooms, curbs, fidgets, and much, much more. If you have examples you would like to share with us, please email your program coordinator and copy [kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov). We would love to hear how you are making Ohio more accessible in your neck of the woods!

For more information about making your arts programming accessible, contact your Ohio Arts Council program coordinator at [oac.ohio.gov/About/Staff-Directory](http://oac.ohio.gov/About/Staff-Directory), including OAC Accessibility Coordinator Kim Turner at [kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov).

HAPPENING AT THE RIFFE GALLERY

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ON VIEW

**QUILT NATIONAL 2017**

**JANUARY 25 - APRIL 14, 2018**

**20th Biennial International Juried Art Quilt Exhibition**  
**Produced by The Dairy Barn Arts Center, Athens, Ohio**

**Riffe Gallery**  
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

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## **QUILT NATIONAL 2017**

**January 25 - April 14, 2018**

Produced by the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio, *Quilt National 2017* is the 20th biennial international juried art quilt competition dedicated to the promotion of the contemporary art quilt. Its focus is to provide the viewer with a visual presentation of innovative trends in the medium of layered and stitched fabric. Artworks were selected by jurors Nancy Crow, Petra Fallaux, and Art Martin. The OAC Riffe Gallery presents 36 of the original 86 works in the exhibition.

[Read more about the free events and programming scheduled for the OAC Riffe Gallery's Quilt National 2017 exhibition.](#)



## PERSISTENCE PAYS, TRANSFORMING FIBERS

*Quilt National 2017* marks the Dairy Barn Art Center's 20th biennial of producing this extraordinary art quilt exhibition, and the eighth collaboration with the OAC Riffe Gallery. The quilts on view have been created in the past few years by artists across the globe, and the OAC Riffe Gallery is currently presenting about a third of the entire exhibition on view.

[READ MORE](#)

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**COMING SOON**

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Quilt National 2017: Persistence Pays, Transforming Fibers. Dairy Barn Art Center, 1000 Dairy Barn Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29566. 843.686.1234. [www.dairybarnartcenter.org](http://www.dairybarnartcenter.org)





# WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO-2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the  
National Museum of Women in the Arts

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MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018

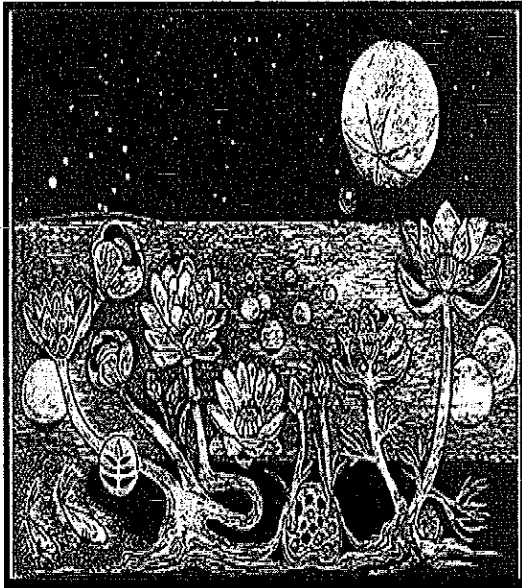
## WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

May 3 - July 7, 2018

*Women to Watch Ohio – 2018* showcases the work of 10 Ohio women working with metal through sculpture, installation, jewelry, and two-dimensional works. The exhibition is developed in collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and is curated by Ann Bremner and Matt Distel. This is the second *Women to Watch Ohio* exhibition initiated by the Ohio Advisory Group and the first to encompass mid-Ohio as well as the northeast and southwest regions of the state.

[READ MORE](#)

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## LOBBY SHOW: PHOENIX RISING PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE

April 12 - May 10, 2018

Phoenix Rising Printmaking Cooperative is dedicated to promoting the art of printmaking by providing a well-equipped studio, educational opportunities, an environment of mutual support, camaraderie, and inspiration for artists, students, and the community.

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## FOR ORGANIZATIONS | Grants & Opportunities

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### APRIL 2: ArtSTART Grant Deadline

The ArtSTART program provides flexible, accessible funding to help organizations complete short-term projects addressing a wide variety of goals and objectives. Most awards support the programming of new or emerging organizations, including first-time OAC applicants, as well as new or established organizations in areas not served by other arts providers.

Applicants may request between \$1,000 and \$5,000. All awards require a 1:1 cash match. To

learn more about the ArtSTART program and to read the program guidelines, visit the [Ohio Arts Council website](#).

**CONTACT:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov) and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

**APRIL 2: Year 4 Updates Due for Sustainability Grant Recipients**

The [Sustainability program](#) supports ongoing arts and cultural activities in all genres. Awards support the largest and most administratively sophisticated organizations in the state's arts and cultural ecosystem.

**CONTACT:** Brianna Dance, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:brianna.dance@oac.ohio.gov) and Jim Szekacs, Organizational Programs Coordinator, [jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:jim.szekacs@oac.ohio.gov)

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## FOR ARTISTS | Grants & Opportunities

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**APRIL 13: Kent State University Taylor Hall Commission**

Kent State University (KSU) is inviting Ohio and national artists to submit up to nine digital images of past work for the KSU Taylor Hall Building Percent for Art Project commission. The renovation of KSU's Taylor Hall provided the opportunity to house together the School of Visual Communication Design and Communication Studies. The historic Taylor Hall building's interior has been transformed to become the center for these dynamic programs. The commissioned work should be reflective of the departments which are housed in Taylor Hall. Two interior wall locations have been identified for the commissioned work.

For more information about this opportunity, visit: [goo.gl/tUiNpm](https://goo.gl/tUiNpm).

= A**CONTACT:** Kathy Signorino, Artist Programs Coordinator, [kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.signorino@oac.ohio.gov)

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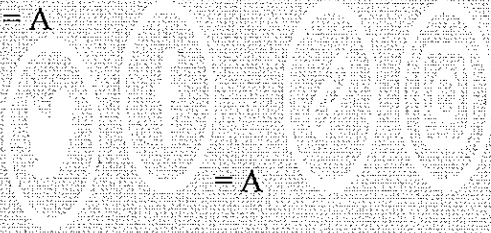
= A Image credits: 1) National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins; 2) 2018 Governor's Awards Registration Open logo, Design by Formation Studio, Artwork: "Marigold" by Carol Stewart; 3) 2018 Ohio Poetry Out Loud State Champion Caroline Delaney, Photo credit: Terry Gilliam; 4) The Riley School of Irish Music, Photo credit: Courtesy of The Riley School of Irish Music; 5) First Lady of Ohio Karen Kasich, Ohio Poet Laureate Dave Lucas, and Ohio Arts Council Deputy Director Dan Katona, Photo credit: Still from video by Ohio Arts Council; 6) Meet the Staff graphic, Image credit: Ohio Arts Council; 7) March webinar graphic, Image credit: Ohio Arts Council; 8) Art & Accessibility Graphic, Image credit: Ohio Arts Council; 9) Quilt National 2017 postcard, Image credit: Rosemary Hoffenberg, Regatta, 2016, cotton, thread, natural batting, 43" x 38"; 10) Quilt National '17, Photo credit: Courtesy of the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery; 11) Image credit: Carol Boram-Hays, WHOOSH (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"; 12) Image credit: Jennifer Cross, Ascension by Lotus, 2017, woodcut relief print, 25" x 31"

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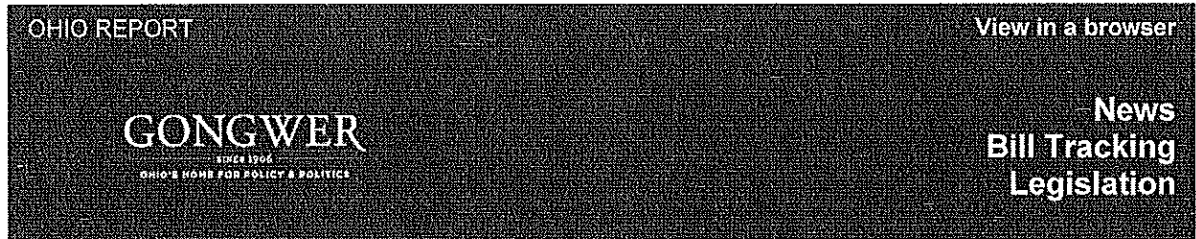
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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:43 PM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Thursday, May 10, 2018  
**Attachments:** May10.htm; 180510dayplan.htm; May11Schedule.htm



## **OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, MAY 10**

**State Auditor: ECOT Officials May Have Engaged In Criminal Activity**

**Democrats Seek To Anchor Republican Candidates To Online School  
Faulted In Audit**

**Medicaid Officials Detail Safeguards For Managed Care Expansion**

**Administration Points To Improvements In Behavioral Health Redesign  
Payments**

**Retirement Study Council Approves 2019 Budget**

**State Offers Guidance On Mental Health, Firearms; Chronic Pain Rule  
Available For Comment...**

**Agency Briefs: AG Approves Petition For Legalized Pot Issue; Arts  
Council Gets Nearly \$1 Million NEA Grant; Auditor; ODA; DAS**

**Governor's Appointments**

**Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated**

**Supplemental Agency Calendar**

## **CALENDARS**

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**Day Planner**

**Legislative Committee Schedules**

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**Volume #87, Report #91 -- Thursday, May 10, 2018**

**State Auditor: ECOT Officials May Have Engaged In Criminal Activity**

State Auditor Dave Yost on Thursday referred his office's audit of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow for potential prosecution before blasting the Department of Education's oversight of the now-shuttered e-school and calling for stricter state laws on such entities.

The auditor's report determined that ECOT failed to provide documents proving students were using their computers for educational purposes for the hours it requested payment for during the 2016-17 school year. The audit found that although the school used tracking software known as ActivTrak to record what websites and programs students were using and how long they were using them, it did not provide all of that data to ODE.

Mr. Yost also issued findings for recovery on nearly \$250,000 that ECOT-related entities spent on political advertising as the General Assembly was considering new measures to regulate charters and ODE was looking to claw back payments made to the online school.

The audit's release kicked off another round of criticism from Democrats who accused Republican leaders of failing to oversee ECOT and prompted several Republican statewide candidates to donate money their campaigns had previously received from school leaders (*See separate story*).

Mr. Yost called information-garnered from ActivTrak "the smoking gun" in his office's investigation into ECOT, which ended with him referring the findings to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office and U.S. Attorney's Office.

"For the first time, we can prove that ECOT submitted information to ODE in order to get paid that it knew to be false when it was submitted," Mr. Yost said.

After ODE requested information on student participation at the e-school, Mr. Yost said ECOT provided "meaningless and unreliable information ...that ODE inexplicably accepted." He said department officials should have pushed for more information from the school.

"I would not have accepted the watered-down, blanked-out spreadsheets that were submitted to ODE," he said.

In a statement, Mr. Yost went further to challenge the department's handling of the e-school.



"With the level of incompetence displayed by both the school and ODE, the regulator, it's amazing that any money went to education whatsoever," he said.

ODE spokeswoman Brittany Halpin in a statement pushed back against the auditor's claim that the department mishandled its oversight of ECOT.

"No one has held ECOT more accountable for the education of students than the Department of Education, and our work to return approximately \$80 million to Ohio's taxpayers continues," she said.

Ms. Halpin said department officials "repeatedly questioned and subsequently rejected portions of ECOT's data."

ECOT closed in January after the State Board of Education voted the previous summer to claw back \$60 million from the school after an audit found it over-reported its full-time enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. The panel earlier this year tacked on another \$19 million to the school's debt, claiming it again overstated enrollment for 2016-17. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

The e-school has filed two appeals with the Ohio Supreme Court, claiming ODE and the State Board of Education acted improperly in the lead-up to its closure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

Along with a referral for possible prosecution, the auditor's office issued a finding for recovery of \$249,962. The amount reflects an invoice submitted to ECOT in 2017 for a political ad buy that eventually was paid by Third Wave Communications, according to the auditor's report.

Mr. Yost said Third Wave Communications shares common ownership with other ECOT-linked businesses, leading auditor's investigators to conclude it paid the invoice in order to disguise ECOT's role in purchasing the advertising, which targeted the ODE and state lawmakers.

Karl Schneider, an attorney representing Third Wave Communications, said in a statement the finding for recovery was "meritless" and the result of a political frenzy around ECOT. He said Third Wave plans to challenge the finding.

"Mile-wide, inch-deep investigations have a tendency to lead to unsubstantiated conclusions that generally fail when tested with evidence in the court system, which is the case here," he said.

The auditor said ECOT officials also declined in April to sign a routine letter stating they provided all information necessary for the completion of the audit and that they had informed auditor's investigators of any possible fraud or illegal actions.

Auditor Yost said he anticipates his office will offer legislative recommendations based on the audit of ECOT, which likely will focus on preventing conflicts of interest and

promoting transparency among e-schools and the companies that manage them. He said the legislature also should look into whether funding such schools based on the time their students spent in class makes sense.

"Online learning needs to go to a learning-based, or achievement-based funding mechanism," he said.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Thursday afternoon he is proud of legislation passed in 2015 (HB 288) that overhauled the state's accountability system for charter schools, which he said is working. He said he had not read the auditor's report, but would be open to recommendations from Mr. Yost.

"I'd be happy to sit down with him and talk about that," Mr. Obhof said.

A message seeking comment from ECOT's attorney was not returned prior to deadline.

### **Democrats Seek To Anchor Republican Candidates To Online School Faulted In Audit**

On the day Auditor Dave Yost announced he was referring his audit of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow's finances to prosecutors, Democrats made hay out of Republicans' ties to the defunct e-school.

Former federal prosecutor Steve Dettelbach, Mr. Yost's Democratic opponent for the office of attorney general, in a series of tweets Thursday again called on Yost to recuse himself from ECOT-related matters and questioned the timeline that led up to the referral.

"Dave Yost's excuses for why he couldn't refer the case are a flat out joke. I was a federal prosecutor for 20 years. Fraud cases don't get better with age," Mr. Dettelbach wrote.

At a press conference for the release of the report, Auditor Yost defended the timing of the referral.

"The criminal referrals always happen at the conclusion or near the conclusion of our work," he said.

David Pepper, chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party, said in a statement the auditor's report jibes with Democrats' previous criticisms of charter schools.

"Finally, after years of pretending otherwise, even the Republican auditor of this state is at long last admitting that one of the central policy directions pursued by Republicans in Ohio for nearly two decades turns out to be a fraudulent scam," he said.

Pepper also accused Yost of taking contributions from ECOT, then "(handing) out awards to ECOT like candy and (ignoring) whistleblowers who came to his office."

Mr. Yost said auditor of state awards are "given under objective criteria," adding ECOT received its awards before the Department of Education imposed standards requiring e-schools to provide data on how long their students spent in class.

"The auditor of state's award has nothing to do with how well you're run," he said. "It has specifically and only to do with whether you meet these criteria, and if you meet them, you automatically get the award."

The auditor also denied accusations his office ignored the claims of a whistleblower who went to ODE and the auditor's office last year alleging the school ordered employees to manipulate enrollment data. Mr. Yost said auditor's officials spoke with him twice and reviewed documents he provided to investigators.

"(The whistleblower's) knowledge was insufficient to base a criminal referral (on) at that time," Mr. Yost said, adding that the auditor's office was "already aware of virtually everything that he said" and working on an audit program to review the school.

The Yost campaign also announced it is donating \$29,395 to charity to offset contributions made by people with ties to ECOT to Mr. Yost's state auditor campaign and transition committee in response to the referral for prosecution.

Allison Dumski, spokeswoman for the campaign of Republican auditor candidate Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), said in a statement the campaign is donating \$36,513 to "high quality charter schools" to offset donations from ECOT founder Bill Lager to Faber's prior campaigns.

"As made evident by Auditor Yost's report today, ECOT abused the state's public trust, deceived parents, and most importantly, hurt the thousands of students who sought a quality education," Rep. Faber said in a statement. "Thanks to the strong charter school reforms put in place while I was Senate president and the diligent work of Auditor Yost and his staff, ECOT was caught and is out of business."

Mr. Faber's democratic opponent in the auditor's race, former Congressman Zack Space, called for politicians who took contributions from ECOT or related individuals to give them back in a Thursday-morning tweet.

"Finally, a long overdue referral for prosecution, after YEARS of scamming our tax dollars. Many questions remain, but the biggest: what role did political contributions have in creating or perpetuating this scam? Pols who took ECOT \$ should return it," he wrote.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) in a statement said the auditor's announcement was a case of "better late than never."

"However, I am concerned that the auditor avoided acknowledging his own failures to hold ECOT accountable in the past," he said. "The auditor is well aware that the Ohio Department of Education had the power to ask for detailed student attendance data before 2014. That means the data should have existed and Auditor Yost could have asked for it."

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) in a statement called for a bipartisan reform effort in regards to e-schools. He said the legislature could start by considering a measure (SB 39) introduced by Sen. Schiavoni in February.

"It is within the legislature's mandate to create a more efficient and effective education system so that Ohio's children have the opportunity to thrive," he said. "Members of the General Assembly have a moral obligation to work together toward bipartisan e-school reform."

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) sent a letter to Mr. DeWine requesting the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the e-school.

"Taxpayers, students and their families deserve to know the truth about the extent of ECOT officials' criminal activity to defraud the state out of tens of millions of dollars," the letter stated.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray used the release of the audit as an opportunity to tie his Republican opponent, Attorney General Mike DeWine, to the e-school.

"This is just the latest attempt by Republicans in the Statehouse to whitewash their ECOT scandal," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "They willfully looked the other way as a billion of our taxpayer dollars went to a politically-connected for-profit charter school instead of to educating Ohio students. In exchange for enabling their scam, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted raked in tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, while our state, taxpayers and children were being defrauded and mistreated."

Joshua Eck, a spokesman for the DeWine/Husted campaign, said in a statement the auditor's report actually shows Republicans are providing oversight of charter schools.

"Mike DeWine and Jon Husted believe that every dollar we invest in education needs only one priority: Helping our kids get off to a great start in life," he said. "Anyone who tries to manipulate that system should be held to account. It's a shame Richard Cordray doesn't understand how Republicans are already imposing that accountability."

### **Medicaid Officials Detail Safeguards For Managed Care Expansion**

Managed care plans and the Ohio Department of Medicaid said Thursday they're ready for the scheduled July 1 carve-in of behavioral health services, although the agency said it has contingency plans in place to alleviate potential problems.

One point of concern for the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee was one plan's recent struggles meeting the state's prompt pay standards, problems that plans said were not tied to behavioral health.

The move to managed care is the second step in the behavioral health redesign process, and administration officials also argued before JMOC that the first stage - new billing codes - is starting to turn the corner. (*See separate story*)

Although Medicaid officials said they're confident the state's managed care plans will be ready to take on behavioral health services come July, they also detailed a series of safeguards designed to mitigate any issues. (ODM Presentation)

Those protections include a six-month period after the carve-in during which Medicaid members can use any provider for services regardless of who their managed care plan is, said Patrick Stephan, ODM's director of managed care. The period was initially three months but was extended to six months to include an open enrollment period in which members can change managed care plans if they choose.

"Any provider providing services to somebody in the new system will be paid by the managed care plans, no questions asked," Mr. Stephan said.

After that period, providers and plans will still be able to work out single-case agreements if the provider isn't in a plan's network, he said.

Another safeguard is that plans will have to follow the Medicaid program's fee-for-service coverage policies and payment rates through June 30, 2019.

ODM will also develop a post-implementation task force including managed care plans, providers and groups representing providers to identify issues and address them, Mr. Stephan said.

The department will also offer a contingency plan for providers who face problems with billing, similar to a contingency plan offered during the first stage of the redesign, he said. Plans would make a monthly payment for July, August, September and October for providers serving their members equal to 54.6% of the provider's average monthly Medicaid reimbursement in 2016.

Representatives of the five managed care plans told the committee they were each prepared to handle the change in services.

"Improvements for behavioral health in Medicaid will occur July 1 due to managed care carve-in," said Buckeye Health Plan President and CEO Bruce Hill. "Buckeye and the other Medicaid plans have been working closely with our providers for months to ensure a smooth transition."

One managed care organization that JMOC members questioned extensively was CareSource, which is working with ODM to resolve failures to meet the program's prompt pay standards in the second half of 2017.

JMOC Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) asked CareSource to provide its plan of action for resolving prompt pay issues to the committee in the next week.

CareSource Ohio President Steve Ringel said the company would comply and had experienced no problems with prompt pay in behavioral health. He told Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) that the problems stemmed from having insufficient staff, and that they largely occurred in primary care. The plan has offered cash advances where there are significant issues with specific providers, he said.

Rep. Antonio asked ODM officials about the remediation process for prompt pay failures.

When the department identifies problems with a plan, it works with them to identify issues and develop a solution to bring them back into compliance, Mr. Stephan said.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) questioned why it has taken several months for ODM to act on CareSource's issues.

"To me, eight months is a long time, so I would encourage the department to potentially move these triggers up, so we're not six, seven, eight months down the road when we're finally acting in a manner that facilitates change," he said.

Mr. Stephan said both the plan and ODM have taken the issue seriously and are working on solutions. He also said they have considered changing the requirements, which currently mandate plans pay 90% of claims within 30 days and 99% within 90 days.

"Through the balance of this process, it is a topic that we are looking into," he said.

### **Administration Points To Improvements In Behavioral Health Redesign Payments**

State Medicaid officials argued Thursday that the first step in the behavioral health redesign process, a move to new billing codes, is beginning to stabilize after some initial uncertainty.

The administration used data covering the first three months of the year to tell members of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee that billing problems are being resolved and that the new system is, in many cases, paying providers more quickly and efficiently than before.

The comments come in response to a survey released last month by the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers that found many members were receiving

significantly less in overall payments from Medicaid. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2018)

Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, said that survey, which covered 80% of the council's members, represents about a quarter of providers affected by the behavioral health redesign. (ODM Presentation)

While payments for claims in February were down 20% compared to the previous February, those numbers in January and March were close to the same, with total payments in the first quarter of 2018 down about 7% compared to the same period in 2017, Director Moody said.

When looking at denial rates of claims, Mr. Moody said the 18% denial rate in March was down compared to 28% seen in January, showing providers are working out problems with the new system.

That rate, above the typical denial rate of about 11%, also is inflated because the new coding system is disqualifying claims that previously might otherwise have been paid by Medicaid, including claims that should be paid by other payers, he said. When those claims are eliminated, the denial rate drops to 11% in March and 15% for the first quarter overall, he said.

Many of the denials - about 41% - are coming from 26 providers, which account for 6% of the total number, he said. When they are removed, the denial rate for March drops to 5%. Mr. Moody also pointed out that hospitals, which have more experience with the code sets and the system, experienced a denial rate of 1% for the quarter.

"Many of the early concerns with redesign are being addressed as we look at actual system performance," he said.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) cited a drop in total behavioral health spending in April, which was not included in Mr. Moody's presentation.

April's spending is affected by a one-week payment delay for the month for all providers in the Medicaid program to keep the program's budget balanced, Mr. Moody said.

"A significant portion of the reduction in April is unrelated to redesign, it's related to a one-week delay in payment," he said.

The council's survey was conducted "at the point of maximum consternation" with the new process, Mr. Moody said.

"Everything in the council survey are things that we flagged to monitor and track because they could be signals of something going wrong," he said.

Sen. Coley said the fact that overall spending in behavioral health remains below last year's total continues to raise red flags.

"From a budgeting standpoint, their concerns are not as overblown as we thought," he said.

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) asked how much providers are being told about why a certain claim was denied.

"What does that look like moving forward so these folks can actually get what they need and we can actually find out whether this is why they're losing that funding?" she asked.

Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said providers are given codes explaining why a claim was denied, and that with larger denials, the department will reach out to providers to explain.

"I can't have my folks explaining how to bill Medicare or a third party, but what I can tell you is that now that we have moved to a national code set, it's easier for them to bill those services," she said.

The administration's comments didn't quell the Ohio Council's concerns about the plan to move ahead with the next step of the behavioral health redesign. CEO Lori Criss also pointed to prompt payment issues with one managed care plans as raising questions about the planned July 1 managed care carve-in. (*See separate story*)

"Today's discussion at JMOC reinforced that the state, managed care plans, and providers are not yet showing full signs of readiness for a July 1 move to managed care, especially with fewer than 8% of providers shown as being in a position to serve the same capacity that they served last year at this time," she said in an email.

"It's stunning to think that the administration can declare readiness when at the same time revealing that the Ohio Department of Medicaid has known for months but not shared that CareSource, which covers over 50% of Ohioans on Medicaid Managed Care, has violated their timely payment requirements."

Prompted by the council's survey, one Democratic lawmaker also announced Thursday that he would ask ODM to delay the planned carve-in by six months.

"Logistical issues during the rollout of the redesign plan have wreaked havoc on our healthcare providers, threatening care and forcing many to eliminate staff and essential services," Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) said in a statement. "This is especially troublesome at a time when we continue to battle our worst-in-the-nation opioid crisis. Extending Phase I by six months will allow us to iron out the issues and refocus our efforts on what truly matters-delivering quality, affordable healthcare to Ohio families."

### **Retirement Study Council Approves 2019 Budget**

The Ohio Retirement Study Council will see a slight spending increase under a budget approved by members Thursday.



The panel signed off on the \$781,800 budget request with little discussion after council Director Bethany Rhodes walked members through an overview. The annual increase is just above 1%, or \$8,450. The council receives no legislative appropriations and is funded through the plans' investment earnings.

The School Employees Retirement and the State Teachers Retirement systems also presented current drafts of their own budget proposals. Rising insurance costs, additional staff training expenses and increasing bank fees appear to be the common themes. (Committee Documents)

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) applauded the ORSC's budget for zeroing out a line item previously put aside for communication products like phones and internet.

Ms. Rhodes explained that because the council relocated to a state office building, it no longer needs to rely on a private vendor for those services. She said, however, that the line item would remain in the budget in case the council should relocate at some point in the future.

Ms. Rhodes said she was also successful in following through on members' prior instructions to attempt to extend the contract of the council's two actuaries - PTA/KMS and RVK - which were to expire in August. She said both agreed to extend the contracts another five years at the current rate.

**Other systems:** Representatives of the School Employees Retirement System and State Teachers Retirement System shared their own budget projections with the council, although SERS CFO Tracy Valentino said that system's proposal is still a work in progress and will likely be lower when it returns for council consideration.

SERS' proposed operating budget increased 4.3% over the current year, partly attributable to a 4.7% increase in personnel costs and a 5.5% increase in health insurance. All told, the total budget clocks in at just more than \$34 million - up from \$32.9 million the year prior.

Member Thomas Pascarella questioned Ms. Valentino on the increase in banking fees the system has seen. She replied that as the assets grow, so too do the custodial and related fees.

STRS CFO Paul Snyder said the system is eyeing a 2.2% increase - up from \$99.9 million to \$102 million - for its 2019 budget. He said the system has trimmed six full-time equivalent positions thanks to online efficiencies and teacher retirements - a fact Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) praised.

**Recommendations:** Senior Research Associate Jeff Bernard outlined staff's recommendation to remove a provision in the Ohio Revised Code requiring Highway Patrol Retirement System to conduct an annual adequacy contribution rate report.

Those reports, Mr. Bernard suggested, are duplicative and costly. The council, he noted, would still have the ability to request such a report if the change were adopted. System Executive Director Mark Atkeson said he supports the proposal.

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said the issue will be discussed at the group's next meeting along with whether similar requirements for other systems should likewise be eliminated.

The council also voted to recommend lawmakers modify maximum statutory penalties for systems failing to transmit either employee or employer contributions.

### **State Offers Guidance On Mental Health, Firearms; Chronic Pain Rule Available For Comment...**

The Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services issued guidance this week to help mental health practitioners with questions surrounding mental illness and firearms.

The memo comes as the debate over firearms and particularly mass shootings continues at the state and federal level.

ODMHAS Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst wrote to providers that the discussion demonstrates the important role they play in the conversation and in the prevention of violence.

Statistics show a relatively small number of violent acts directed toward others are committed by people with mental illness, and that people with mental illness are much more likely to use firearms to take their own lives, he wrote.

"When individuals with certain mental illnesses are actively experiencing symptoms, they may be impulsive, misperceive reality and have impaired judgment. If firearms are available, the risk to themselves and others increases markedly," he wrote.

"Health care providers have no duty more important than to maintain the wellness and safety of patients, families and the communities where they reside. This duty is accomplished by providing effective treatment for psychiatric disorders and substance use problems, as well as remembering our duty to address the risk that exists from access to firearms for those under mental health treatment."

Dr. Hurst recommended patients and their families be advised of the risks posed by firearm access, and the importance of mitigating them. He also stressed the importance of ensuring relevant documents are submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in the case of an involuntary commitment.

"While our clinical interventions alone will not eliminate all firearm-related injuries and deaths, they most certainly eliminate some of them," he wrote. "Even one life saved is worth it."

**Chronic Pain Rules:** The Ohio State Dental Board posted draft rules of proposed new regulations on the prescribing of opioid medications for chronic and subacute pain.

The proposed rules were announced last week by Gov. John Kasich and medical professional boards. They create a framework of checkpoints for prescribers when authorizing progressively stronger doses of opioid pain relievers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 2, 2018)

Comments on the rules can be sent to the dental board via email with the rule number in the subject line, and with the Common Sense Initiative copied on the email. Comments will be accepted through Friday, May 18.

The board also expects to hold a public hearing on the rule in July.

**Medicaid Waivers:** A report by Policy Matters Ohio questioned research cited by federal health care regulators in supporting Medicaid waivers imposing work requirements on certain members.

PMO claimed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services misstated or misinterpreted the findings of various academic studies in justifying a move toward additional work requirements for Medicaid members.

"Medicaid's mission is to improve the health of Americans struggling to make ends meet," Wendy Patton, PMO senior project director, said in a statement. "Good health is a precondition for work, not a reward for it. Nothing in academic literature justifies CMS's plan. In fact, in many cases, the research shows why this policy is flawed."

#### **Agency Briefs: AG Approves Petition For Legalized Pot Issue; Arts Council Gets Nearly \$1 Million NEA Grant; Auditor; ODA; DAS**

A resubmitted petition summary for a ballot issue to legalize marijuana in Ohio was approved Thursday by Attorney General Mike DeWine.

Backers of the proposed constitutional amendment, titled "Marijuana Rights and Regulations," will be cleared to begin collecting signatures after the Ohio Ballot Board determines whether the language requires a single or multiple issues.

Mr. DeWine's office determined that, unlike the committee's first attempt, the new petition summary represented "a fair and truthful statement of the proposed law."

Under the proposed amendment, which also prescribes how governments can restrict the use of marijuana in ways similar to alcohol-related laws, a new Ohio Constitution section would "endow the Rights of persons in Ohio age 21 and older to possess, cultivate, process, use, transport, sell, purchase and share marijuana in Ohio...."

**Ohio Arts Council:** For the ninth consecutive year, OAC is celebrating the award of the second-largest partnership agreement grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The \$995,800 received to help support arts initiatives throughout the state tops the amount granted to larger states such as Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania, OAC reported. (Details)

"Ohio has a long tradition of securing nearly \$1 million annually through the State and Regional Partnership Agreement program from the National Endowment for the Arts. We are proud to receive the largest award in the Midwest and the second largest-award in the nation, OAC Executive Director Donna S. Collins said in a statement.

"Every dollar we earn from the NEA is invested in the arts statewide through our grantees. The federal investment in the arts in Ohio is important, not just the Ohio Arts Council grant award, but the 16 grants given this cycle in a variety of categories to arts organizations across Ohio."

**State Auditor:** Dave Yost has placed the Village of Bridgeport in Belmont County on the state's "unauditable" list due to a lack of documentation.

"During the course of the regular financial audit of the Village of Bridgeport for the period Jan. 1, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2017, the Auditor of State's office determined that the condition of the village's financial records was not adequate to complete the audit," his office reported. In a letter to the village, the Auditor's office provided a list of information required to complete the audit.

"Complete financial records shine a light on local governments," Auditor Yost said in a release. "Taxpayers should not be left in the dark on how their dollars are being spent."

The village has 90 days to respond to the letter by revising its financial records and providing the required data. Failure to do so could result in legal action.

In a separate release, Mr. Yost announced that Nicholas Szabo, the former city auditor of London in Madison County, pleaded guilty to theft in office "for his failure to reimburse the city for his health insurance costs and for an unauthorized pay increase for a fellow employee."

Mr. Szabo resigned in December. The auditor said he will be sentenced on the fourth-degree felony violation on June 7.

Mr. Yost also announced this week that a special audit of Mt. Sterling was recognized by the National State Auditors Association with an Excellence in Accountability Award.

"The award recognizes the office's work in uncovering extensive corruption and almost \$1 million in illegal spending at the small Madison County village," his office reported.

"The special audit was instrumental in securing the convictions of four administrators

and employees, including former Mayor Charles Neff and former Village Administrator Joseph Johnson."

"The exemplary professionals of my office continually get results - and justice - for Ohio's taxpayers," Auditor Yost said. "This recognition from their peers is evidence of the first-rate work rooted in every audit and investigation they perform."

**Department of Agriculture:** The agency reported Thursday that an invasive species of hemlock-killing insects had been discovered in Adams County.

The hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like Asian insect first reported in the U.S. in 1951, has devastated the trees in areas along the Appalachian Mountains and has been detected in 20 states.

The infestation in Adams County was discovered through the survey work being conducted by the ODNR Division of Forestry in Shawnee State Forest. The bugs were first detected in a forested setting in Ohio in Meigs County in 2012, the agency reported.

"At this time, ODA will move to expand its hemlock quarantine, enforced by ODA's Plant Health division, to include Adams County," ODA reported. "Ohio quarantine regulations restrict the movement of hemlock materials from areas known to be infested with HWA into non-infested Ohio counties. Ohio's quarantine law also requires hemlock materials to be inspected and officially certified before being shipped, verifying that the plant material is free of HWA when entering Ohio."

The agency separately announced that aerial treatments designed to control the gypsy moth population would begin soon in 54 acres in Franklin County. The treatments are administered using a low-flying aircraft and will likely take place during early morning hours, ODA said.

The department said it will use Foray (Btk), a naturally occurring bacterium found in the soil that interferes with the caterpillars' feeding cycles, adding that the substance is not toxic to humans, pets, birds or fish.

**Administrative Services:** The state will hold next miscellaneous surplus property auction on Saturday at the DAS General Services Division headquarters, 4200 Surface Rd. in Columbus.

Scaffolding and a Delta RS-15 shaper are among the unique items being sold at the auction, which also features "a wide variety of computer equipment (e.g., laptops, monitors and printers) and electronic appliances (e.g., copiers, digital cameras, DVD players, audio and video equipment and mobile radios).

Doors open at 8 a.m. and the auction begins at 9 a.m. More details are available on the DAS website.

## **Governor's Appointments**

**State Dental Board:** Andrew W. Zucker, DDS of Sandusky for a term beginning May 10, 2018, and ending April 6, 2022 and Canise Y. Bean, DMD, MPH of Columbus and Faisal A. Queresby, MD, DDS of Richfield for terms beginning May 10, 2018, and ending April 6, 2022.

**University of Akron Board of Trustees:** Cindy P. Crotty of Cleveland Heights has been appointed to the for a term beginning May 10, 2018, and ending July 1, 2026.

### **Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated**

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com).

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

#### **Monday, May 14**

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Tuesday, May 15**

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Wednesday, May 16**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

#### **Thursday, May 17**

Aerospace & Aviation Technology Committee, Rm. 017, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Friday, May 11**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

Small Government Capital Improvements Commission, OWDA offices, 480 S. High St., Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

### **Event Planner**

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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## **Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 5/11/2018**

**Monday, May 14**

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 15**

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing-Rm., 9:30 a.m.

**SB 275** **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Burke, D.) Regarding the authority of certified registered nurse anesthetists to administer drugs in addition to anesthesia and to select and order certain other drugs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 247** **PERS HEALTH CARE** (Dolan, M.) To require the Public Employees Retirement System to permit certain spouses of retired or deceased members to continue receiving allowances to pay for health care expenses under the System's group health care plans. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 263** **NOTARY PUBLIC** (Huffman, M., Wilson, S.) To enact the Notary Public Modernization Act. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**SB 265** **PHARMACY SERVICES** (Dolan, M.) To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist and to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**SB 273** **RATING AGENCIES** (Hackett, B.) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of John Adams, CFA, Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission; Rachel Bankowitz and Donald Brogan, RA, Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board; Charles Bills, Owens State Community College Board of Trustees; Thomas Carroll, Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee; Rachel Cummings, Southern State Community College Board of Trustees; Matthew Davis, Ohio Business Gateway Steering Committee; Terrence Fergus, Cleveland State University Board of Trustees; Charles George, Youngstown State University Board of Trustees; Matthew Kirby, CFP, Ohio Tuition Trust Authority; Gary Lindgren and David Scholl, Third Frontier Commission; Austin McClain, Ohio University Board of Trustees; Jill Neff and Joshua Smith, Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees and Rick Ritzler, Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees

**SB 296** **LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEFITS** (LaRose, F., Hottinger, J.) To revise the payments that surviving family members receive from the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund and to permit surviving spouses and children to participate in the health, dental, and vision benefits offered to state employees as if the survivors were employees of this state. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers, to require the



- Facilities Construction Commission to study and report on school building security upgrades and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 299** **WATER IMPROVEMENTS** (Gardner, R., O'Brien, S.) To allow equipment for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie to be purchased with proceeds from the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund, and to appropriate funds for projects enhancing water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)
- HB 353** **UNCLAIMED FUNDS** (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- SB 246** **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- House Federalism & Interstate Relations (Committee Record) (Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177), Rm. 115, 4 p.m.
- HB 580** **GRANT APPLICATIONS** (Thompson, A.) To establish procedures that executive agencies must follow when applying for grants, to require the Governor to approve any major grant application, and to permit the Governor to disapprove any minor grant application. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 26** **JERUSALEM** (Faber, K., Keller, C.) To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 228** **GUN LAWS** (Johnson, T., LaTourette, S.) To assign to the prosecution the burden of disproving a self-defense or related claim, to expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force under both civil and criminal law, and to modify the Concealed Handgun Licensing Law regarding a licensee's duty to keep the licensee's hands in plain sight, the penalties for illegally carrying a concealed firearm or improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, and the posting of warning signs regarding the possession of weapons on specified premises. (6th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 85** **HEALTH CARE COMPACT** (Retherford, W.) To enter into the Health Care Compact. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.
- HB 544** **SCHOOL SAFETY STANDARDS** (Rogers, J., Perales, R.) To require the State Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing standards for safety enhancements to new public and nonpublic school facilities and to require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to revise its construction and design standards to comply with the State Board's standards. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 216** **SCHOOL REGULATIONS** (Huffman, M.) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 517** **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Schaffer, T., Leland, D.) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 540** **TEACHER EVALUATIONS** (Gavarone, T., Manning, N.) With regard to teacher evaluations. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 591** **SCHOOL REPORT CARDS** (Duffey, M.) To revise the state report card rating system for school districts and public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent-Possible substitute-Pending referral)
- Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hackett, B., 466-3780), South Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.
- HB 392** **APIARY DAMAGES** (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases involving bee stings. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 506** **DOG BREEDERS** (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

### Wednesday, May 16

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9 a.m.

- SB 135** **VOTING EQUIPMENT** (LaRose, F.) To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent-Pending referral)
- Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:15 a.m.
- House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 3 p.m. or after session
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Timothy Staup, Motor Vehicle Salvage Dealers Licensing Board and Norman Lane, State Fire Council

- SB 293** **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS** (Peterson, B., McColley, R.) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 295** **ROAD NAMING** (Hottinger, J.) To designate a portion of State Route 93 in Tuscarawas County as the "PFC Oscar F. Nicewander Memorial Highway" and a portion of State Route 520 in Holmes County as the "Cpl. Jerry Robert Spitler Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m. or after session

- HB 360** **BULLYING** (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 87** **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 438** **ESC BOARDS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)** To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards, to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions, and to authorize educational service centers to establish local professional development committees. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote).
- HB 21** **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Hambley, S.)** Regarding verification of community school enrollments. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)  
House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 113, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 527** **VISITATION RIGHTS (LaTourette, S.)** To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 572** **RETIREMENT CREDIT (Scherer, G., Howse, S.)** Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 158** **ELDER FRAUD (Wilson, S.)** To develop best practices and educational opportunities to combat elder fraud and exploitation and to fine and require full restitution from offenders who are found guilty of certain fraud-related crimes against the elderly. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

### Thursday, May 17

Joint Ohio College Affordability Committee (Chr. Wilson, S., 466-9739), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- Presentation from Chancellor John Carey on past and current initiatives to reduce the cost of college education  
~~Canceled: House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 466-3357), House Chamber, 4 p.m.~~

- If needed

### Tuesday, May 22

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

- If needed  
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- If needed

### Wednesday, May 23


Joint Education Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, G., 466-8150), North Hearing Rm., 8:30 a.m.

- Presentation by State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria and update on progress of other research projects (tentative)  
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.  
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 24**

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1 p.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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**From:** Ohio Arts Council

**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:08 AM

**To:** Slack, Cora

**Subject:** May | Governor's Awards Photos, Individual Excellence Awards & more

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**OHIO CELEBRATES, WORKS, AND  
NEVER RESTS ON OUR LAURELS**



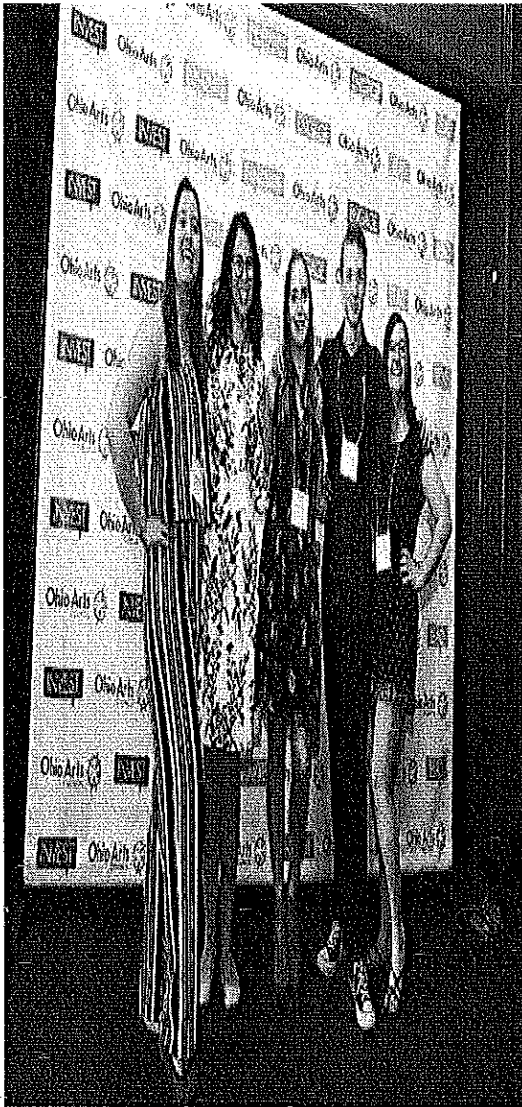
*2018 Governor's Award for Community Development and Participation winner Sierra Leone and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins.*

In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins discusses the 2018 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more agency updates.

**READ DONNA'S MESSAGE**

**THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC  
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS CELEBRATION!**





Congratulations to the nine winners who were honored for their contributions to the arts in Ohio at the annual Arts Day & Governor's Awards luncheon and awards ceremony on May 16 at the Columbus Athenaeum!

**[WATCH THE FULL PROGRAM HERE](#)**





**National  
Endowment  
for the Arts**  
arts.gov

## OHIO RECEIVES SECOND- LARGEST NEA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT GRANT FOR 9TH STRAIGHT YEAR

The OAC received \$995,800 to help support arts initiatives throughout the state.

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